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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk December 25, 2016

East edition No 744

HEALTH

Hospitals emerge from special measures

Boost as trust gets thumbs up from the CQC

RELIGION

Finding light amid the darkness

Bishop of Dover on challenges we all face

CHRISTMAS

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Reflecting on the last 12 months

We look back in a special review of the year

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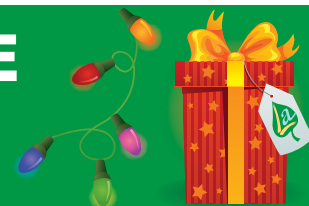


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Never forget the power of a memorable yuletide

THERE can be no more emotive time of year than Christmas - a time for us to reflect on where we were, and who we were with, at this time in years gone by.

It can be a sobering moment, often tinged with the agonising pang of memories of those no longer with us.

There is a sense among many that Christmas should almost be dismissed due to its 'commercialisation' but that only occurs if you let it and suggests that you never really understood the season in the first place.

Because the magic of this special time of year is that it is a chance to simply spend time with loved ones; friends and family with whom we all too often simply pass by amid the frenzy of daily life.

That aspect of Christmas has never really changed and we should guard against it ever doing so. Because it is that snapshot in time it provides which creates the framework for



Editor **Chris Britcher**

our memories in years to come.

Granted, of course, domestic bliss is by no means a guarantee as a consequence, but it is simply that rare opportunity which we should not ignore or fail to embrace this one time in the year.

Especially, perhaps, after a year like 2016 - so traumatic in so many different ways for so many people. If he hasn't been heroes dying, it's been political shifts which are redefining the way the world works.

So take the opportunity of Christmas to reflect on the past 12 months and, more significantly,

to think big for 2017. It may just be that the power of positive thought may be our most valuable weapon.

It goes without saying that from everyone here at Kent on Sunday, we wish every one of our readers and advertisers a very merry Christmas and we'll see you next week ready to welcome the new year.

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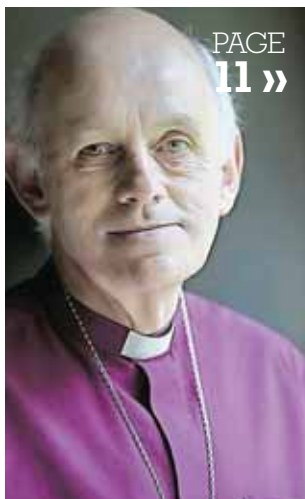
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Trust makes giant stride on road to full recovery

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

HEALTH bosses have hailed a Kent trust for making "significant improvements" in the quality of its services and recommend it exits special measures.

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust was placed in special measures by health watchdog, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in 2014 after an inspection identified concerns about quality and safety.

It runs the William Harvey in Ashford, QEOM in Margate and the Kent & Canterbury hospitals.

The CQC inspected the trust again in 2015 and found significant improvements, raising the rating from 'inadequate' to 'requires improvement'.

This week's CQC report on the most recent inspection in September 2016, shows further improvements across every site and service inspected, an exceptionally caring workforce and no inadequate ratings.

The chief inspector of hospitals, Professor Sir Mike Richards, said: "I am pleased to report that we have found good evidence that the



IMPROVING: Kent & Canterbury Hospital comes under the trust's management

trust continues to make steady progress.

"It is clear that the staff have worked hard to ensure further improvements to the quality and safety of care.

"The leadership of the trust is stronger and I am satisfied that they are engaging more closely with their staff to ensure the trust is running more effectively. We can see real benefits for patients.

"While the overall trust rating has

not changed from the inspection of July 2015 this report indicates a number of areas especially in the emergency department and maternity where significant improvement has been made.

"There are still areas where further work is needed and I expect the trust to address these as a matter of priority in the coming months."

Trust chief executive, Matthew Kershaw, said: "This is a major step forward in our ongoing journey to

improve how we care for our patients, their relatives and our staff. We have made significant progress which means that hospitals provide better care for our patients and are better places for our staff to work."

Despite the improvement in levels of care, the trust is currently not meeting its agreed savings plans and is predicting it will finish the 2016/17 financial year further in deficit.

£100,000 fine following showground death of 'human cannonball'

A STUNT firm director has been given a 12-month community order for health and safety breaches and his company fined £100,000 following the death of a human cannonball who was killed after being fired into the air at a show.

Stuntman Matthew Cranch, 24, died after sustaining multiple injuries when a safety net intended to break his fall collapsed as he hurtled to the ground.

He had been fired from a lorry-mounted cannon in front of hundreds of spectators during Scott May's Daredevil Stunt Show at the Kent County Showground in Detling on April 25 2011.

Maidstone Crown Court heard a mechanism which triggered the release of the safety net was not properly set.

An inquest jury last year ruled the death was an accident.

Mr Cranch's boss Scott May, 40, of Stunts UK Ltd, was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court to the

community order, including 150 hours of unpaid work, after pleading guilty at Maidstone Magistrates' Court in July to a health and safety charge.

A judge said his offence was "committed through omission rather than act". A guilty plea was also entered on behalf of Stunts UK Ltd and it was fined £100,000. An £80,000 costs order was also imposed.

Mr Cranch, who was living in Newquay, Cornwall, had performed the showpiece human cannonball stunt five times before the tragedy. He had joined the stunt team around four weeks before his death.

In footage shown at the inquest, one of Mr Cranch's colleagues was heard giving a "Three, two, one" countdown on the public address system before he shouted "fire".

Mr Cranch could then be seen being propelled from the cannon amid a cloud of pyrotechnic smoke as the safety net in front of him suddenly collapsed. Despite efforts by medics, he died at Maidstone Hospital.

Forget a white Christmas, it's going to be very mild

FORECASTERS are predicting an unseasonably mild Christmas Day this year - with temperatures reaching as high as 13C.

While many were keeping their fingers crossed for snow as temperatures started to fall earlier this month, the Met Office is instead predicting a peak in temperatures on the day itself.

Don't expect much in the way of

sunshine, however, as you look to walk off one too many mince pies.

The forecast for the weekend from the Met Office reads:

"Christmas Eve will be breezy with sunny intervals and isolated showers. It will be breezy and mild on Christmas Day with some rain later."

Temperatures are set to return to around 8C by Boxing Day.

Deal signed to start building £30m homes on college site

CONTRACTS have been exchanged to transform the site of the Jemmett Road campus of Ashford College into more than 150 new homes in a £30m development.

The college is moving into swanky new town centre facilities in time for the start of the 2017/18 academic year.

And that means it can finally allow developers to get to work on

its existing site in south Ashford.

Orbit, one of the UK's largest developing housing associations, and Kent-based property and construction company, Chartway Group exchanged the contracts to build 158 new mixed-tenure homes on the site.

Construction on the site is expected to start by late summer 2017.



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Chief constable extends £157k-a-year contract

KENT'S police chief has extended his £157,000-a-year contract until 2022, the force's police and crime commissioner has confirmed.

Alan Pughsley became chief constable in 2014 when he signed a five-year contract, and Conservative PCC Matthew Scott this week announced Mr Pughsley had committed to the force for a further three years.

Mr Pughsley said: "Continuing to serve as the chief constable is an honour and whilst there are some extremely challenging times ahead I feel confident that with the support of the PCC and my committed workforce that we can continue to provide a quality policing service that puts victims and witnesses at the heart of everything we do."



ARTIST: Tracey Emin

Emin council row prompts return home?

CONTROVERSIAL artist Tracey Emin could be heading back to Thanet after saying she intends to leave her long-time home in east London following a planning row.

The artist, 53, who grew up in and around Margate and attended the Medway College of Design, says she is looking to a possible return to Kent after failing to secure permission to expand her art studio in Tower Hamlets.

Speaking to The Guardian, she said: "Why would you want to be somewhere you're not wanted?"

"What I'm going to do now is move out of London.

"I don't have any choice on that. There's places now in Britain that are desperate for artists – Margate's thriving, Folkestone, Hastings. All that Kent coast. And I could have a giant studio and be really relaxed."

Both Margate and Folkestone have used the arts as a catalyst for their regeneration over the past few years.

The Turner prize-nominated artist – best known for works such as *Everyone I Ever Slept With*, a tent featuring names as the title suggests, and *My Bed*, an exhibit which appeared to have been the bed she'd slept in complete with condoms and underwear – officially opened the Turner Contemporary in 2011.

£2m fine for apologetic water firm after sewage washes up on beaches

By Tom Pyman

b p1

A WATER company has been fined £2m and apologised "unreservedly" for flooding Thanet beaches with sewage, leaving them closed to the public for more than a week.

A blockage at the Southern Water Foreness Point sewage pumping station after heavy rain saw waste including tampons and condoms spill into the sea in June 2012.

More than 20 beaches were closed across a spell of nine days during the peak summer season as environmental chiefs worked around the clock to clear the sewage.

Speaking following the hearing at Maidstone Crown Court on Monday, Madeline Homer, CEO of Thanet District Council, said: "This is clearly a regrettable incident which impacted on the area and I am pleased that Southern Water has taken full responsibility for it.

"I am however extremely heartened that in recent years Southern



POPULAR: Thanet's beaches

Water has made significant investment to improve the site and is taking a much more collaborative approach to ensuring that Thanet's bathing waters continue to improve and are amongst the highest quality

in the country."

Southern Water director Simon Oates added: "We apologise unreservedly for the failure of the waste water pumping station at Foreness Point near Margate.

"Since 2012 we have invested £4 million in the site and have a further £6 million investment plan. We're working hard with partners such as the Environment Agency and Thanet District Council to ensure that the area's bathing water is cleaner than ever.

"Thanet's beaches are some of the best in the country, boasting seven blue flags and three seaside awards. Many now consistently achieve 'excellent' bathing water quality alongside 'excellent' status in tourism surveys.

"We will continue to invest in the site and work with our partners to ensure Thanet's bathing waters are clean now and in the future."

In September, Southern Water was named as the most complained-against water company for the fourth year in a row.

RiverOak finally gets access to Manston

OWNERS of the former Manston Airport site are refusing to back down after the company driving a campaign to get planes flying again was this week granted permission to access the land.

American investment firm RiverOak were told on Monday the Planning Inspectorate had granted the necessary section 53 authorisation to carry out further assessments on the land ahead of its intention to submit a Development Consent Order (DCO).

The site is currently owned by businessmen behind the Stone Hill Park (SHP) project, which proposes to build 2,500 homes and leisure facilities on the land.

SHP spokesman Ray Mallon said: "Regardless of this decision, our view remains that an airport on this site is unviable and attempts to obtain the land by way of a DCO will fail – just as attempts to obtain it through a compulsory purchase order failed."

A meeting to change the use of the site takes place in January.

Station in £10,000 artwork commission

TRAIN company Southeastern is on the hunt for local artists to create "an engaging and inspiring" piece of work for Tunbridge Wells railway station.

The firm says it has a £10,000 budget to provide a piece to grace the walls of platform two of the station.

It will replace murals painted by artist Brian Barnes in 1989. He has been commissioned to provide another piece next to the new work.

The originals were removed when it was discovered the framework securing them was badly decayed and the paintings could not be saved.

Now Southeastern has teamed up with local stakeholders including the Tunbridge Wells Town Forum, Refresh Tunbridge Wells, Royal Tunbridge Wells Together and passengers to commission the art work.

It is hoped the work will be in place by March. Deadline for applications is January 13.

For details and how to submit an application, visit the website www.southeasternrailway.co.uk/about-us/our-community.

Ex-convicts' charity backs NI cut plans

A MAIDSTONE-based charity has thrown its weight behind a House of Commons report calling for tax breaks for employers that offer jobs to ex-offenders.

Ministers are being urged to pilot the reduction of National Insurance contributions for firms that "actively" employ former convicts as part of efforts to drive down re-offending rates that cost the taxpayer £15 billion a year.

Christopher Stacey, co-director of Unlock, a charity that works with people with convictions in the county town said: "This report shows that current government policy is failing people with convictions.

"There is no one person in government with responsibility for helping prison leavers into work and no clear strategy for how different agencies should work together to get people with convictions into employment."

"Employers need to be encouraged to change their recruitment practices, and piloting a reduction in NI contributions for those who actively employ people with convictions is a welcome step forward."

£10,000 raised in memory of tragic teen, 'angel' angler Jack

By Luke May

luke.may@archant.co.uk

A FUND set up in tribute to teenager Jack Morrison, who was found dead in a popular fishing lake last weekend, has topped £10,000 in just four days.

Friends and family of the popular 16-year-old, nicknamed Bubbles, have been coming to terms with his passing after a major search was triggered last Friday afternoon.

Rescue teams descended on the lakes at Sutton-at-Hone and sealed the area off before finding his body on Saturday.

Police say they not treating his death as suspicious and a coroner's report is being prepared. It is believed he had been fishing.

A crowdfunding campaign was started on Monday, aiming to raise to £7,000 to cover the young angler's funeral. More than 500 people have chipped in.

The JustGiving page was set up by the Dartford and District Angling Preservation Society, which the Fawkhams teenager joined when he was eight-years-old. At the time of going to press on Thursday, more than £10,800 had been raised.

His family paid a moving tribute: "Jack you were like a beautiful angel that we were sent. We have been so lucky to have you, and you were amazing.



MISSED: 'Beautiful angel' Jack Morrison died while fishing

"You were like our little golden boy, your life was so charmed and everything you wanted seemed to come to you. Your love of football was answered by playing for Volenti Football Academy and your weekends were spent on your one true love, fishing.

"Although your life was short it was full; you had achieved so much and were on a path to success.

"Your life was not a waste and the last year you had become so funny, constantly making us laugh and thank you God for

that, as we now have so many stories to share of your cheeky jokes.

"That is what is keeping us strong, the thought of your happy laughing face that we love more than words can say. Our lives will never be the same now, without you here with us and although we never thought there really were angels, now we do as it's the only explanation for such a beautiful amazing boy."

To contribute to the fund see the anglers' site at www.ddaps.org/news.

Supermarket feels the heat in blaze

SOME 20 firefighters tackled a blaze in a supermarket in Ashford on Monday night.

The alarm was raised shortly after midnight when a fire started in a freezer of the Lidl store in New Street before spreading to surrounding stock.

Night staff were evacuated as crews tackled the fire at the rear of the shop.

Crews quickly brought the fire under control. No-one was reported injured.

Cops release man in dead woman probe

POLICE investigating the death of a woman in her 50s in Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, say they are no longer treating her death as suspicious.

A man in his 60s had been arrested after officers were called to Lady's Gift Road on Tuesday. He has now been released without charge.

Keep gifts secure

POLICE are urging us all to take extra security steps over the festive period to combat the annual spike in the number of burglaries.

With expensive gifts being exchanged and longer evenings, officers warn crooks will look to take advantage so ensure if you go out lights are left on and gifts are not left visible through windows.



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Focus on the future and the arrival of 30,000 new homes

Tom Pyman heads to Medway Council as leaders fine-tune region's local plan

REGENERATION chiefs in Medway have launched a battle cry to help the area "punch at its weight" as the council prepares to kick into life plans to build 30,000 homes by 2035.

The local authority will next month invite feedback on its local plan, a document government obliges it to produce, which sets out an intention to grow Medway's population from 276,492 to 330,200 over the next two decades.

Despite being one of the largest areas in the south east, bosses at the council - a unitary authority separate from Kent County Council - admit Medway is not seen as a powerhouse after suffering a period of decline following the closure of the dockyard in 1984.

However, a vision to build on its recovery in recent years, and become a leading waterfront university city, has been set out to help the area compete as it should for one of its geographical size.

"We do need to punch at our weight," Medway Council's portfolio

holder for planning, economic growth and regulation, Jane Chitty, told us.

"Medway has been underestimated by many people, usually within Medway, however externally our reputation has been incredibly enhanced over the last years.

"But of course, having created momentum, what we have to do is keep it going and certainly initiatives like the local plan give us opportunity to do that.

"Medway has a very distinct personality about it, the people make that personality and the businesses and other organisations create something very different from other parts of Kent."

The main task for Medway's new local plan will be to identify the potential for the area to deliver sufficient land for up to 30,000 of these new homes - 25 per cent of which will be affordable housing - together with employment and retail land, infrastructure investments and community services and facilities.

The council says it needs to achieve all of this while also protecting and



PLANS: Rochester Riverside is one of the upcoming regeneration projects

enhancing the natural, built and historic environment - ensuring any development complements any existing natural infrastructure in place.

"Historically, Medway has been the manufacturing and entrepreneurial heart of Kent and the guts was

knocked out of Medway when the naval base and dockyard closed," said Rodney Chambers, portfolio holder for inward investment, strategic regeneration and partnerships.

"We're trying to get those skills back into Medway to help the busi-

FUTURE: Much of Medway's future is on developing land formerly part of the thriving dockyard and its industrial heritage



nesses grow.

"People say 'why did you go to attract the universities here?' because Medway had the lowest percentage of young people moving onto university of anywhere in the south east of England.

"Inherently, you didn't go to uni-



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versity in Medway, you went into further education as part of your skills training in the naval base and other supporting companies.

"Everyone went into apprenticeships and we had to break that ethos of 'my children don't go to universities' and one of the best ways was to

actually bring the universities here to Medway and we've seen what a success it has been – it has raised the aspirations of our young people."

While growth is important, there needs to be the housing supply to meet it and in other areas of the county councils have come under fire for

plans to address a national shortage by building on green land.

Communities feel they are under attack and similar development may well be seen in Medway if the council is to bring its total number of homes to some 137,600 over the next 20 years.

"People are rightly protective of their communities but look at it from the other side, and the dilemma we have," said Cllr Chambers.

"I want people who live in Medway to have a good, valued job and to be able to live in the community in which they've grown up and they want to stay.

"House prices in Medway, although lower than the Kent average, they are accelerating far faster than anywhere else in the county, and I don't want there to be a position when people have got to move away from Medway when they've lived here all their lives.

"We made it a policy up until now to only consider brownfield sites because we had a hell of a lot of them, but we haven't got them anymore."

If a council fails to produce a local plan, central government penalises the authority and it loses the control and influence over development it enjoys with such a document.

"We don't want to have this 'planning anarchy'," Cllr Chambers added.

"If you don't have a plan, people will come forward with sites and even if the local authority says 'no' they then go to the planning inspector, appeal against the council's decision and argue that as the council doesn't have a local plan in place, there's no reason why their site cannot be considered for development.

"And we've had cases where inspectors have agreed and given permission.

"At least with the local plan you have a degree of control rather than a free-for-all."

Before a final decision is made about Medway's future, there are many stages of consultation and assessment to go through.

At this stage, it is thought Medway's local plan will be implemented in 2019, subject to outcomes of an independent examination by a planning inspector.

However, there is an element of flexibility allowed, particularly with regards to large projects proposed in areas just outside Medway such as Paramount Park and the Lower Thames Crossing, which council bosses expect to have "a big knock-on effect for Medway".

Council leader Alan Jarrett said: "This is a really important opportunity for Medway residents to have their views heard about the various proposals.

"We understand this is a sensitive topic for some local people, so it's key that everyone gets involved at this early stage and attends upcoming events to find out more and understand the scale of what the council is obliged to achieve.

"Regeneration is at the core of Medway's growth plans and its vision for how the area should look and function by 2035.

"We're committed to providing renewed urban areas with high quality services and developments along the waterfront and in town centres that bring jobs, homes and services to Medway's communities."

The consultation will run for seven weeks from January 16 to March 9.

Consultation documents are now available to view at medway.gov.uk/futuremedway where an official online feedback form and background documents will be available from January 16.

The dates and locations of public engagement events will be announced in the coming weeks.

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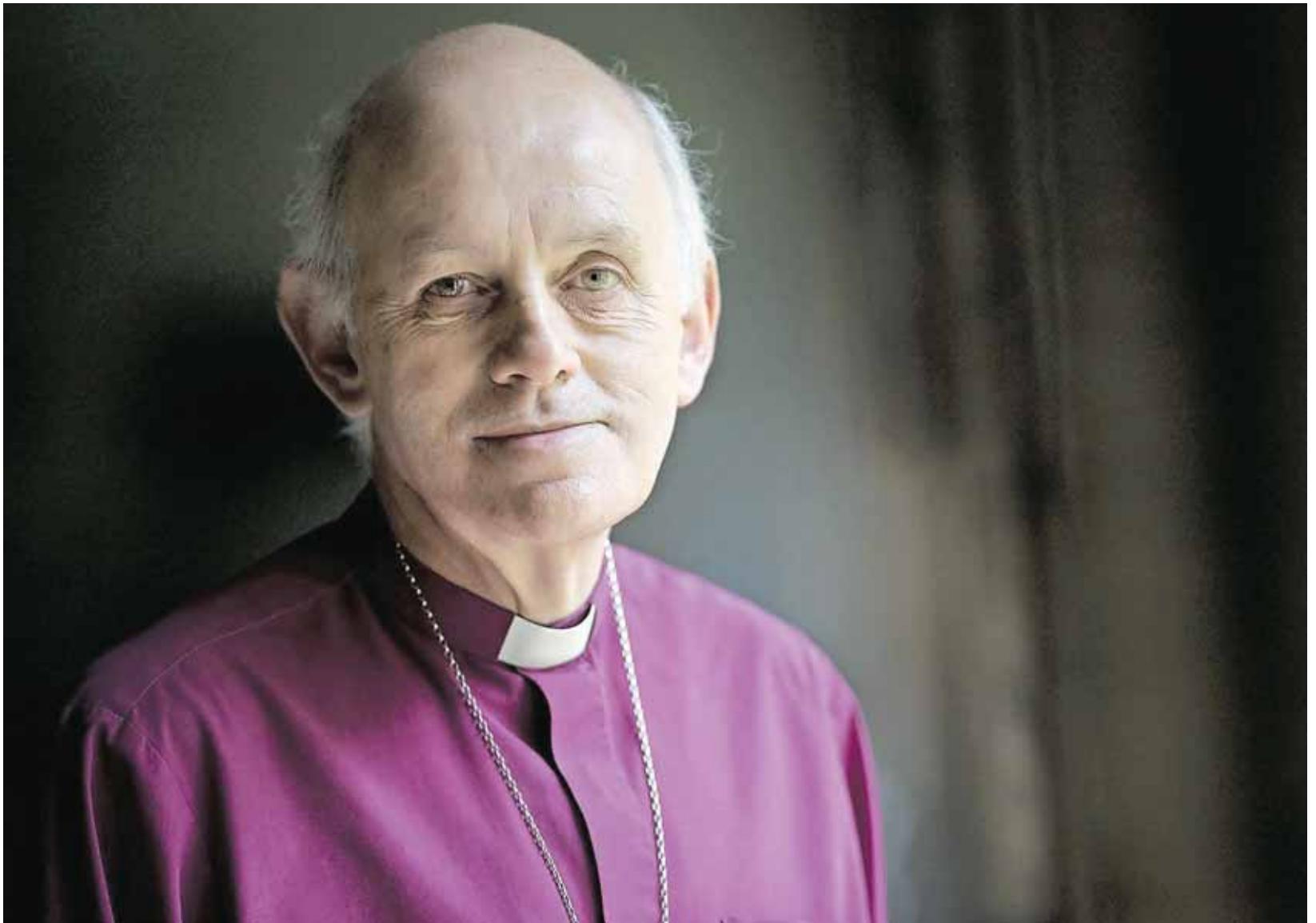
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HOPEFUL: The Bishop of Dover highlights the positives amid the “darkness of winter” and how we can all help make this world a better place.

Picture: Ady Kerry

Why we must shine ever brighter

IN what is supposed to be the ‘most magical time of the year’, the suffering faced by many is so great – both here and overseas – that it sometimes feels overwhelming.

One cannot deny the darkness of winter.

The Church, too, has its problems. Like any major organisation, we struggle with the challenges of finance and recruitment, of public image and coming to terms with our past failings. But, more than that, we share the challenges facing the communities in which we live. And I tend to feel that it’s a good thing that the Church is not immune to these troubling times.

Because, if we truly seek to serve and care for our communities across Kent, it is only right that we should suffer with, in and alongside our communities, sharing their hardships and pain. If we as Christians are doing our jobs right, the Church should be deeply embedded where we live, working in partnership with others to make a positive difference to our neighbours.

The Church should never see itself

Bishop of Dover, the Right Reverend Trevor Willmott’s special Christmas message to our readers urges us all to seek the light amid the darkness

as separate, to one side of – or (heaven forbid) above – the lives of the people of Kent. We are the people of Kent.

But if we’re all in the same boat, what hope is there? Where is the life raft?

“I lift my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?” cries King David in the book of the Psalms. And I wonder if that’s the challenge for us all this winter – to lift up our heads, to open our eyes and search for signs of hope on our own doorsteps.

If we do, I am confident that we will discover that there is, indeed, much to celebrate, much to give us comfort and hope in the winter darkness.

Like the growing relationship between churches and the arts community on the Isle of Sheppey, the warm welcome extended to new residents at Howe Barracks in Canterbury, or the

opening of winter shelters to offer refuge for the homeless across our county.

One of my favourite stories of 2016 is of the concert in St Mary’s Church, Goudhurst, which raised more than £5,000 for work with unaccompanied children seeking asylum in this country. St Mary’s works with local charity Kent Kindness, which teaches English and basic life skills to teenagers who arrive in Kent without any adult care.

These youngsters often arrive here with seriously disordered sleep patterns, having travelled for many months at night, sleeping during the day.

Dr Ana Draper, who is project lead for local NHS services supporting these youngsters, has developed a ‘sleep pack’ with funding from St

Mary’s. This can help the teenagers return to a normal pattern of rest and is now being rolled out across the UK.

Inspired by this small success, the congregation at St Mary’s has set up a new fund to administer the funds raised at the concert – and some additional money they have raised.

It’s to be called The Mustard Seed Project and aims to provide small seed funding for projects that otherwise couldn’t be funded quickly, and which will have a proportionally larger effect than the donation that is given.

So what started as the sowing of a small seed of hope in Goudhurst – local people seeking to help in their own small way – will now affect many more lives across the UK, and will have a legacy that will truly last.

Each such story gives me hope. Each such story is a small act of defiance, a refusal to let the darkness win – for we serve a defiant God.

We serve the God who refuses to let sin and suffering and failure have the final say in his world. A God who seeks us out even though we turn away from him. A God who loves us, even though he knows our whole life

stories. This is the God and the hope we celebrate in the midst of deep winter darkness. This is the defiant heart of the Christian faith, the God-image in each one of us.

So, though we cannot deny the darkness of winter, we can choose to live in spite of it. We can light candles, string up fairy lights, set a fire in the grating, welcome people in with steaming cups of tea and a warm smile. Let each simple, defiant act hail the coming King, the one who is the Light of the World, who suffers with us and for us – and who loves each one of us defiantly.

It is my hope and prayer that the love and peace of Christ will be with you and those you love this Christmas. And I offer this short prayer for each of you:

**Lord of light,
Give peace and comfort to all
this Christmastime.
Bring hope to each one of us in
our darkness,
and empower us with the courage
to let that light shine for the
sake of others.
Amen**



TUNE: The Shorncliffe choir tunes up for regular public performances - as well as appearing on a recent CD which features similar choirs from across the nation.

Apart at Christmas, but military wives' choir hits the high notes

Adele Couchman visits a choir where the emotions are raw with loved ones serving our nation abroad

A GROUP of Kent army wives have shared their stories of solidarity and heartache over the festive period after taking part in the Military Wives Choir Christmas album.

The Shorncliffe Military Wives, who are based at the Sir John Moore barracks in Folkestone, are one of 65 groups of women across the UK and abroad who have been involved in a major musical project documenting what Christmas means to families in the military community.

After appearing on Gareth Malone's BBC Television show *The Choir* - and then securing the Christmas number one spot with their single 'Wherever You Are' in 2012 - Military Wives Choirs have been bringing women from the military community closer together through singing.

The album, *Home for Christmas*, features 12 classic carols sung by 1,006 singers - six of them which have had their lyrics up-

dated to reflect what Christmas means to families who often have to spend time apart.

Some of the wives based in Folkestone have told KoS what Christmas is like for them.

"My partner missed my son's first Christmas when he was in Afghanistan, which was horrendous," explains Hannah Simpson, the chair of the Shorncliffe Military Wives Choir.

"Even though you know there's nothing you can do because we chose this life, it just makes you feel sad that they are missing out on so much. When Ewan started walking and talking, I used to send him a photo everyday so he could see his son growing."

Mrs Simpson's husband Matt has been serving in Northern Ireland as a aviation communications specialist and a sergeant in the army air corps for the past two-and-a-half years, meaning her and their son will not see him for up to two months at a time.

"From one week to the next, I don't see my husband. It's nice to be with a group of people who know what you're going through, without having to sit down and explain it all. "The choir is somewhere women can meet others that have been through the same sort of experiences and feelings, and just to have a couple of hours to not worry about things. They know that if you burst into tears in the middle of a song, it's OK. And also a place to share the happy times as well."

Amy Neale, 32, has been involved in the Shorncliffe choir since August after she and her family moved to Folkestone from an army barracks in Essex.

For the past two Christmases Mrs Neale's husband Richard has been serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

She said: "It's a unique time to be away, but you just knuckle down and get on with it."

"There's always a moment in time where we think about him and wish he was still here - but you have to focus on making it fun still."

Speaking of the choir's rehearsals which take place every Thursday at the Sir John Moore barracks, she said: "I've been at practices where people have broken down because they really miss their husbands. But that's not always the norm; we don't all sit around rocking in a corner. We actually come together and have a really good laugh."

She added: "We do sing songs that tug at the heart strings, but the majority of army wives I know are the ones that have got such a brilliant backbone and have a smile on their face even when they're having a really, really rough day."

"When I look back at some of my husband's deployments, I actually had a brilliant time. That benefits him

and benefits me, because he knows that I'm OK."

As well as partners of army personnel, Shorncliffe also welcomes women who are serving, military daughters and mothers as well as veteran wives.

Jude Murray, 74, lives in Folkestone with her 76-year-old husband who served in the navy. She explains: "We all admire these young women. It's a tough life for them. It's wonderful for us - we can come here and socialise, have a good time and sing."

"But we don't have to sit at home worrying about our husbands coming here. We remember it of course, but it's so much easier for us. Service life can be very lonely."

As 23-year-old Mandira Rai explains, Christmas isn't the only period armed forces families have to sacrifice every year.

"When my husband misses Christmas, it's OK for us as we don't celebrate here. But when he's away over our festivals, it's lonely in some ways," said Mrs Rai, whose partner is a sniper in the Gurkha regiment. Both are Hindus.

"Three years in a row now Niran has missed Diwali, and it is quite difficult. I'm used to it now, but the first year was really hard. My parents were away, his family were away and I was on my own and working."

"I still decorated my house, had nice food and went to see my friends - but it's just not the same as when you are with your partner."

Mrs Rai moved to Folkestone in 2013 after previously living in Sandhurst and with her family in Nepal.

"I don't have any children, and my parents are in Wiltshire. So it's really nice to have a second family, come and have a chat and sit down. We're a small knit community here at the choir - they look out for me and vice versa."

The Military Wives Choir released their new album *Home for Christmas* at the end of last month. The single *Home for Christmas* was released earlier this month.

■ For those wanting to join the Shorncliffe Military Wives, email shorncliffe@military-wiveschoirs.org

TOGETHER: Hannah Simpson with her husband Matt and son Ewan



GARETH MALONE'S MAGIC TOUCH

THE first military wives choir was formed in 2010, but it was when choirmaster Gareth Malone formed the Military Wives Choir as part of a BBC TV show, a year later, that they really took off.

Formed at the Royal Marines base in Chivenor, Dorset, it was the focus of the popular *The Choir: Military Wives* series

and focused on how it helped wives and girlfriends of servicemen deployed to Afghanistan to express themselves and make new friends.

The choir formed sang *Wherever You Are* during the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall in 2011 and the following

month became one of the UK's fastest selling singles, chalking up more than 500,000 sales and shooting to the top of the charts, claiming the coveted Christmas number one slot as it did.

The choir has subsequently performed around the country - including performances at the likes of Leeds Castle.

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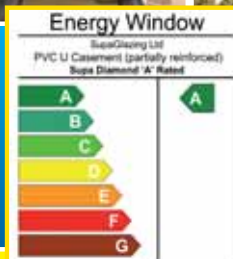
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Hospice on a mission to alter our perception of life and death

We take a visit to one of the county's top hospice facilities to find out how not only is it expanding across Kent, but also the vast range of services such sites are now providing for those reaching the end of their lives, and their families.

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

WHAT does a hospice mean to you? The chances are the knee jerk reaction is simply as a place you go to die. However it's a perception that is not only undergoing something of an evolution but, perhaps more importantly, needs to.

Because today's hospices play a far more integral role in the delivery of key health and well-being services to those facing either life-limiting, or terminal cases.

Yet it presents a problem for the facilities - and there are a number scattered across the county - to change perceptions for the benefit of all those who can access their services and for the community as whole.

Take Ellenor, founded in 1985, and serving a population of over one million people in Kent and caring for around 2,000 families each and every year.

It has facilities in Dartford and Gravesend but is playing an increasingly active role as far as Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Sevenoaks and the London borough of Bexley.

Its bricks and mortar presence is very much only the tip of the iceberg.

It delivers care direct into the homes of around 90 per cent of those it provides services for. And in the last year alone, that age range has stretched from zero to 107.

Dr Russ Hargreaves is head of wellbeing at the hospice, a broad remit which covers what he describes as psychosocial care.

He explains: "If you look at the well-being umbrella - health, happiness and contentment - they are three words you would not associate with a hospice.

"But I think we can achieve that with many people. They might be living with a life limiting or terminal illness but that shouldn't stop you being happy with what you have.

"It is a challenge, but the bigger hurdle is getting over the issue of hospices being seen as a place you go to die. Perhaps it should be changed simply to somewhere for the final two years of your life, for example.

"You look at some of the courses we have to offer - relaxation and meditation, seated exercise, music for wellbeing classes, creative arts classes - unless we get over that hurdle then we can't get people to see the other things we do here, relaxing, sociable things, meeting people who may, for example, have similar

conditions to yourself."

And all that in addition to a host of special medical equipment and treatments.

Little wonder, then, that at the last count it needed to raise an eye-watering £6.7 million a year to sustain the service it provides. Just 25 per cent of its cash comes from statutory funding - the rest is from the community.

Ellenor's Gravesend site was opened in 1992, it's a modern, bright, building a hop over the road from a supermarket and a skip to the busy A2.

Once through the reception area the main social hub has a gentle calm. Patients, visitors and health professionals chat on a range of sofas and chairs, music plays - cheerful tunes - and there's the clinkety-clack of teas and cake being served in a small cafe to one side.

It is, in short, lacking the sense of gloom one might expect.

"What we do more and more," explains Dr Hargreaves, "is we take a person-centred and very holistic approach. So we're not just looking at their disease, but their entire life - family, friends, financial worries, emotional concerns, we take everybody in an holistic approach and I think that's quite unique."

During a tour of the facilities I bump into Angela Cooke, ward manager. A former NHS nurse, she describes her role as doing what she always imagined her career in health being: namely having the time to care for a patient effectively and making a real difference. She speaks with professional enthusiasm and a genuine affection for those she comes in contact with. It's all rather inspiring.

She recalls James Webb, 26, and the support Ellenor offered during the last few days of his life.

Mr Webb longed for one last chance to go to the seaside with his family. Within minutes of his request, the Ellenor team sprung into action to organise just that.

Funding was secured to cover the cost of laying on a special ambulance the following day, to take James to Leysdown-on-Sea on Sheppey, where his friends and family joined him for the day.

He died days after, but his family told staff they would "never forget" that special last family outing.

Explains Angela Cooke: "It was such a privilege to be able to share these precious moments with them. Ellenor cares about life and making the most of every second. We care so families can have valuable time to make mem-



SITE: The Gravesend facility handles in-patients and co-ordinates in-home care. Top right, Dr Russ Hargreaves.

ories like these that will last forever. It's why we do what we do."

At this stage it's worth dispelling a few myths.

A quarter of those admitted as an in-patient here last year were discharged. Nor do all the patients suffer from cancer - in fact around a

third suffer from other conditions such as Parkinson's or heart disease.

What's more, it is the only hospice in the county which deals with children as well as adults - with the vast majority of its children's service being offered in the home where young-

sters are most comfortable.

Yet shifting that perception of a hospice as being the last outpost before the inevitable befalls us, is one Dr Hargreaves is keen to see lifted.

"Changing perceptions of death is a long, slow process, but it is happening. However, it

will take a cultural shift to get to the point where we are all comfortable accepting that we are going to die and about the decisions we can make now about what happens when we reach the end of our natural lives."

Perhaps a little surprisingly, seeing how

Continued on page 16



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Continued from page 15

much hospices take the strain off the NHS, statutory funding accounts for just around 25 per cent of its annual budget.

It relies heavily on volunteers and, of course, those who fundraise or donate to the cause.

Rachel Holwegger is director of income and tasked with formulating a strategy to ensure it can continue to deliver its ever expanding range of services. She explains to KoS: "It's a big responsibility as we're totally reliant on voluntary income. If we didn't have the income our community gives us then there is no care. That is why there are so many options for people to get involved and get engaged.

"We are the only charity in Kent which provides care for all ages and 90 per cent of that is in the home, and that far exceeds just the Gravesend and Dartford areas; we're very strong in west Kent for example, so we're having to encourage people further afield to support us.

"You often have to think what it would be like this if this wasn't here and how terrible that would be for these families.

"It's increasingly competitive out there, increasingly difficult to ensure we are raising the money we need.

"We're never complacent. Year on year we have to do it again and again and demand increases year on year. So we absolutely need people to raise money for us and be aware of the huge impact it has for us.

"We need to £6.7m every year. Every penny matters. Whether it's £1, £5 a month, or something else, it makes a big difference."

For more details or to donate, visit www.ellenor.org.

CASE STUDY: HOW HOSPICE HELPED LITTLE FIGHTER FINLEY

IN December 2013, Larkfield-based couple Sarah Burton and Mike Jones were looking forward to celebrating the birth of their son, a little brother for Alfie, aged four. The couple had no reason to believe that their new arrival would be anything but healthy.

Baby Finley was born on December 21.

"As soon as Finley was born, I knew that something wasn't right," explained his mother. "He didn't open his eyes or feed properly."

The family were discharged the following day – but that first night things took a turn for the worse.

Rushed to a specialist hospital in London he was put in intensive care and diagnosed with Group B streptococcal meningitis. Doctors said he was unlikely to survive.

"With the advice of the medical team and together, as a couple, we made the heart-breaking decision to switch off his ventilator," said his mother. "We simply sat within those four walls and watched Finley for hour upon hour."

His father added: "When we weren't looking at Finley, we were watching the machines. We could see the figures dropping and knew he was leaving us. We watched and watched and then something miraculous happened... the figures started moving in the other direction. Finley had made his choice."

Warned he may only survive another two weeks, Ellenor was



HAPPY: Sarah Burton and Mike Jones and their children Finley and Alfie

recommended to the couple for care in their home – where they wanted him to spend his final days.

"To be honest, at first we were hesitant, we simply wanted to get home with Finley," says Mr Jones. "I guess we were feeling protective and it felt like yet another set of people wanted to get involved with our child's care. It almost felt like interference."

Ellenor nurses Helen and Sharon were assigned.

Ms Burton explains: "For those first two weeks, Helen would come in every day to help us with

Finley's injection and the Ellenor team were on call 24/7 if he pulled his feeding tube out or it became blocked – which sometimes happened in the middle of the night. It could be 3am and they'd turn up, sort out Finley and then make sure we were OK as well. It didn't take us long to realise what a massive support the Ellenor team were."

In addition to receiving medical support from the Ellenor nurses, Finley has respite at home for a few hours a week and has recently started attending Friday Fun Club

– which gives his mum a few hours by herself at home, which she says is invaluable.

Time is also freed up to ensure both parents can attend brother Alfie's big events and ensure they have quality time with him too.

Two years down the track, Finley is about to start at a local nursery – a milestone which the couple could never have imagined that their little boy would reach.

Adds Mr Jones: "Ellenor continues to be part of our family and I don't know what we'd do without them."

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Reflections on a year of relentless seismic shocks

As 2016 draws to a close, **Tom Pyman** casts his eye over a remarkable 12 months which has shaken the political system and deprived us of our heroes

TO call 2016 the most remarkable year in living memory would surely not be too much of an exaggeration.

A sad 12 months for many as beloved celebrities passed away at an alarming rate, one could also claim it was the year of true underdog stories.

Be that Leicester City defying 5,000/1 odds and winning the Premier League, to Donald Trump's remarkable transformation from bumbling reality star to leader of the free world.

The White House changeover was of course not the only seismic political movement either, as Britain voted to leave the European Union, masterminded, some would argue, by Kent's own Nigel Farage.

Questions will remain as to how relevant his party will continue to be now it has achieved its primary aim, but the influence of Ukup and Mr Farage in particular, on 2016 and our future cannot be disputed.

In our other major election, a slightly less frantic and divisive one, it would be fair to say, Kent voted in a new police and crime commissioner this year who, thus far at least, has attracted far less of a storm than his predecessor.

Elsewhere in the county we saw



the green light given to two major road infrastructure projects, chaos on the rails, more ups and downs in the sagas of Dreamland and Manston airport and a number of Olympic heroes emerge amid a myriad of

other stories that dominated national, as well as local headlines.

Quite how 2017 will top it in terms of drama remains to be seen, though a slightly calmer 12 months might not be such a bad thing.

March

The latest in a number of celebrity deaths to rock Britain in 2016 was that of 'the fifth Beatle', Sir George Martin, who passed away aged 90.

Tributes poured in for Sir George, who studied at Bromley Grammar School when the now-London borough was part of Kent, with Paul McCartney describing him as "a true gentleman and like a second father to me".

Another death that got the county talking was that of Roy Blackman (pictured) - the pensioner brutally murdered in his cottage tucked away in leafy Biddenden, while another major crime story was the sentencing of Brian Reader,



the Dartford mastermind of the Hatton Garden robbery - regarded by many as the biggest burglary in English history.

Known as 'the guv'nor', the 77-year-old suffered a stroke and was deemed too ill to appear for sentencing where the court was told how his team stole £14m

worth of valuables, including gold, diamonds and sapphires, though only a third of the haul has ever been recovered.

Reader was jailed for over six years and later in the year had an appeal for a reduced sentence turned down.

Meanwhile, the South Thanet expenses saga rumbled on with Ukup's district council leader Chris Wells demanding Mr Mackinlay's resignation.

The month ended with the return of an idea campaigned against by this very newspaper - Boris Johnson's beloved estuary airport on the Isle of Grain - ahead of a government decision on airport expansion due later in the year.

Medway Council once again emphatically shot down the plans.

January

The final days of 2015 ended with severe damage to the sea wall between Folkestone and Dover, which looked set to cause chaos for commuters throughout 2016.

A number of three metre deep sinkholes along the track meant a key stretch of railway was out of use and passengers had to rely on alternative routes until it finally re-opened in September.

The bodies of former EastEnders actress Sian Blake and her two children were found in her Erith garden in January before her partner Arthur Simpson-Kent was arrested on suspicion of murder while police faced accusations of failure during the case.

The death of musical legend David Bowie from cancer aged 69 rocked the county in mid-January as



we remembered his time in Bromley, Maidstone and Beckenham.

Elsewhere, a TV investigation revealed shocking levels of abuse at the Medway Secure Training Centre in Rochester, which led to arrests and a number of sackings and resignations of G4S security staff.

Protest groups clashed in ugly scenes in Dover which led to dozens of arrests and convictions in the months that followed.

Then at the end of the

month, shockwaves were felt around north Kent as the government announced its preferred route for the new Lower Thames Crossing, proposed to reduce levels of congestion at the existing Dartford Crossing.

Backing for Option C, east of Gravesend, lit the blue touch paper for further rows between campaigners in Dartford, Gravesend and surrounding areas which would dominate local news throughout the year.

February



Kent County Council began the month by approving a return to all-night street lighting around the county and the introduction of LED lamps across the board in a move the authority said would save up to £5.2m a year.

However, the decision was not unanimously positive, as campaigners warned of issues of glare and potential health risks from use of the lights.

Storm Imogen hit the county and left motorists at the Dartford Crossing queuing for more than 10 hours, while there were further exasperated sighs as Kent County Council increased council tax by four per cent in a bid to balance the books.

In a story that captured the hearts of the nation, Maidstone toddler Faye Burdett died on Valentine's Day after suffering a brief but brutal bat-

tle with meningitis.

Photos of her rapid plight went viral and more than 800,000 people subsequently signed a petition demanding all children be given a vaccine.

The fight was taken to Westminster later in the year, where Faye's parents told MPs the hospital had failed them, though calls for the vaccine were ultimately rejected by health chiefs who said the NHS budget was a "finite resource".

February also saw the opening of an investigation by the Electoral Commission into claims the Conservative Party broke spending rules during the 2015 general election in South Thanet, where Craig Mackinlay defeated Nigel Farage.

The MP and the party continually denied any wrongdoing but controversy continued throughout 2016.

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REVIEW OF THE YEAR - 2016

MAY: The pressure on the NHS prompted some to suggest we may have to pay at the point of service for some treatments, sparking a heated debate about the very nature of the NHS



MARCH: When Ann Barnes said she would not stand again for the role of Kent's PCC, she brought the curtain down on an often controversial time in office

SEPTEMBER: The saga of Bake Off's switch to Channel 4 got everyone talking. We pondered if Kent's Paul Hollywood would follow the money...and he did.



April

There was uproar when a report in April revealed the reason for the closure of Westgate College for the Deaf was not financial difficulties as first suspected but rather allegations of abuse, described by local MP Mr Mackinlay as "horrifying".

The Conservative later called an emergency summit in Westminster where represented organisations said they felt the fact that victims were deaf or deaf/blind contributed to the abuse, as victims were not able to point to what had occurred.

Among the allegations published in the report by the Care Quality Commission were claims a resident had a hot cup of tea placed on their arm and was then goaded by a staff member and claims staff grabbed a

resident around the neck and pushed their head down.

Elsewhere in Westminster, the fight for justice over the blood contamination scandal, something KoS has campaigned for, rolled into the House of Commons, where backbench MPs called on the demands of victims, including Steve Dymond from Broadstairs, were acted upon. So far little progress has been made.

After a number of news stories about greater co-operation with France to help ease the pressure on the health service in Kent, including recruiting more doctors from across the Channel to help stem demand, April saw the first NHS patient to be treated in Calais.

Lyminge civil servant Timothy Brierley said he would "thoroughly recommend" the experience at the hospital, which currently has spare capacity.



May

The election in 2016 that many will forget even happened in the shadow of the EU referendum was for the role of Kent's police and crime commissioner, when Conservative candidate Matthew Scott swept to victory to replace the controversial Ann Barnes in the £85,000-a-year role. She had opted not to stand again.

One could argue few knew it was even happening in the first place, with a turnout higher than 2012 but still despairingly low at 21 per cent (pictured).

There was a revolt at one of the county's top schools, with pupils, parents and teachers all expressing frustration at Simon Langton Grammar School for Girls' proposals to become an academy, while staff at grammars threatened strike action later in the month in protest to growing financial pressures.

Another row came in Canterbury after the city council was beaten in a bid for housing at the Howe Barracks by a London borough some 60 miles away - again raising questions as to how Kent will cope with a population overspill from the capital.

One of the most heartwarming stories of the year was the news Matthew Green, a Sittingbourne roofer reported missing for six years, was found by police in



Spain, though he is yet to return home to his family while he undergoes a range of treatment.

There was a blow for Dreamland amusement park in Margate as operator Sands Heritage Ltd entered administration, while the chief executive of an NHS trust in the north of the county came under intense criticism when she suggested that it may no longer be viable to have healthcare free at the point of use, with some GPs calling for her resignation.

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REVIEW OF THE YEAR - 2016

June

June began with some of the least shocking news of the year that Paramount Park plans hit yet another stumbling block, while perhaps equally unsurprising was the England football team, managed by Roy Hodgson, who had plied his trade as a young footballer at a number of Kent non-league clubs, and marshalled at the back by ex-Maidstone star Chris Smalling, crashing out of Euro 2016 in calamitous circumstances with defeat to Iceland.

The county was flooded with street parties for the Queen's 90th, proving



that patriotism is still alive despite continued footballing disappointment, while a Sundanese migrant who walked the length of the

Channel Tunnel was allowed to go free following a trial.

Elsewhere, Ashford paedophile Richard Huckle was jailed, as was Swanley's Harry Shilling, who boasted "we now officially gangsters" (sic) after masterminding Britain's biggest known gun smuggling operation through Medway.

Simply Red played at Canterbury's Spitfire Ground while Fiona Bruce and the Antiques Roadshow rolled into Ightham Mote, near Sevenoaks.

The murder of Labour MP Jo Cox in her Yorkshire constituency sparked an outpouring of emotional tributes from Kent's politicians and revelations of safety fears, with some

admitting to have beefed up personal security in recent months.

George Osborne then made a trip to Ashford days before the referendum to deliver a proposed 'Brexit Budget' and urge the county electorate to vote Remain.

On June 23, the referendum finally arrived and the county voted in favour of leaving the EU, with Tunbridge Wells the only constituency that wanted to remain.

The verdict was one for which many held Kent's own Nigel Farage responsible, though his rival in South Thanet, Craig Mackinlay, laughed off claims Mr Farage was the most influential man in politics.

MARCH:
Boris Johnson was never far from the headlines this year and in March he started banging on again about his dream of an airport in the estuary. We told him to hop it.



JANUARY:
The death of David Bowie stunned the world and we dedicated the front page to him and a special report on how he grew up in the county in Maidstone and Bromley

how he grew up in the county in Maidstone and Bromley



MAY: Love him or loathe him, Nigel Farage's role in winning the EU referendum should not be underestimated prompting us to ask if he was the most influential politician.

July

The month began with the seemingly annual resignation of Mr Farage - only for him to return again weeks later - while a year on from chaos on the county's roads following the implementation of Operation Stack, the government announced its preferred site for a £250m lorry park "the size of Disneyland" at the start of July.

Campaigners fumed and threatened to take legal action after then-transport secretary Patrick McLoughlin confirmed the park, capable of holding some 3,600 trucks, would be built at Stanford

West, near junction 11 of the M20. Work could even begin as early as next summer.

Indeed later that month we were reminded of the woes of last year as thousands of drivers were left queuing at the Port of Dover in the sweltering heat for 14 hours due to a lack of staffing on the part of the border authorities.

It was outlined as one of the first tests for new prime minister Theresa May, who appointed a number of Kent MPs to key roles in her cabinet - most notably promoting Ashford's Damian Green to work and pensions secretary, switching Tunbridge Wells' Greg Clark from communities to



business secretary and retaining Michael Fallon of Sevenoaks as defence secretary.

Boris Johnson was appointed foreign secretary, and with it

handed the keys to Sevenoaks estate Chevening House - though there have been no reported sightings as yet of the former London mayor at the Kent residence.

Referendum tensions boiled over in Bromley as Ukip councillor, Terence Nathan, was widely condemned for comments claiming it was "time to start killing" people who voted to remain in the EU - he later said his comments were to be taken with "a pinch of salt".

Elsewhere, plans were revealed for Ashford, Dover, Shepway, Thanet and Canterbury to merge into a 'super council' while live exports returned to Ramsgate.

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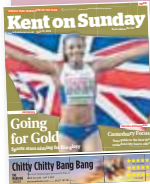
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REVIEW OF THE YEAR - 2016

AUGUST: When a lorry hit a bridge on the M20 it caused major delays for a number of weeks as the wreckage was cleared. Our dramatic pictures revealed the extent of the damage caused.



JULY: The build-up to the Rio Olympic Games saw us pin our hopes on Kent's finest and no one in Team GB

let the nation down with a golden performance.



APRIL: The race to be the PCC saw a straight fight between Ukip and the Tories - we profiled all the candidates in the running to replace Ann Barnes.

August

A month after holding onto his job as defence secretary, the Sevenoaks MP became Sir Michael Fallon after he was made a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath as part of the Resignation Honours of the outgoing prime minister David Cameron.

Kent's Olympians strutted their stuff at the Rio Games, with stand-out county performances being Ashford rower Tom Ransley, who won gold in the men's coxed eight, Orpington's Dina Asher-Smith, who took bronze in the women's relay, and the women's hockey team, featuring a host of Kent players, who defied the odds to win gold over the Netherlands.

Closer to home, Bryan Adams rocked the Spitfire Ground in Canterbury and police and crime commissioner Matthew Scott said he'd fight for more funding after it was revealed a third of officers' time

was spent dealing with mental health issues.

Meanwhile, Dreamland (pictured) was saved after a deal was struck with creditors, but the Margate park continued to endure a tough time for the remainder of 2016, with its chief executive stepping down later in the month.

The biggest collapse of the year, though, came on the M20 after a footbridge dramatically fell onto the motorway after being hit by a lorry.

Thankfully there were no casualties after a motorcyclist's miraculous escape but the impact of the crash was felt for weeks as the motorway was completely closed in both directions across two busy weekends as highways teams worked around the clock to clean up and repair the damage.

Elsewhere, there were calls for the mayor of Dover, Neil Rix, to resign after he was caught on camera sniffing a white substance in a toilet cubicle.



September

Just weeks after the collapse of the footbridge, there was another big bang in Kent as the Grain A Power Station was dramatically demolished, while Swale MP Gordon Henderson returned to work after suffering severe burns in a freak bonfire accident.

Jeremy Corbyn was in Ramsgate prior to being re-elected as Labour leader, where he outlined a £30bn investment plan for the south east if he was to get into Number 10 - claims laughed off by local Tory MP Craig Mackinlay.

Elsewhere in politics, former Rochester schoolgirl and south east MEP Diane James was elected the new leader of Ukip - but incredibly lasted only 18 days in the job before stepping down, with Nigel Farage taking over once more as interim leader.

Meanwhile, controversial plans to lift the ban on new grammars were revealed by Theresa May, with a potential green light given for an annexe for boys in Sevenoaks, alongside the Weald of Kent expansion for girls which is currently being developed in the town.

There was outrage when Great British Bake Off star Paul Hollywood, who lived in



Wingham (pictured), announced he would be sticking with the show as it switched to Channel 4, despite the resignations of co-judge Mary Berry and popular hosts Mel and Sue.

After years of fighting, campaigners in Herne Bay celebrated the unveiling of a statue of Amy Johnson, the legendary pilot who went missing off the Kent coast, while the county's ambulance service, Secamb, was placed in special measures following a tough year.

Kent Police revealed it was to deploy armed officers at Bluewater, the Port of Dover and Canterbury city centre in a bid to beef up its terror defence.



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REVIEW OF THE YEAR - 2016

October

The Dreamland drama rumbled on in October as the site's former owners demanded more than £15m in a compensation row.

Pressure then intensified on the council when an independent report found aviation at Manston Airport was "very unlikely to be financially viable".

The fallout saw calls for a string of resignations, with Thanet North MP Sir Roger Gale pledging to retire if plans to get planes flying again were finally officially rejected.

Elsewhere, the Queen returned to the county as she visited Brompton Barracks in her first visit to Medway in a decade, while the council was left red-faced after a publication error caused confusion for pupils and parents receiving the Medway Test results.

However, the authority rejoiced later in the month when Boris Island plans were



grounded once and for all when Chris Grayling ruled out an estuary airport as the government gave the green light to expansion at Heathrow.

In some of the most bizarre news of the year, pop singer Robbie Williams came to the aid of a starstruck fan who crashed her car after seeing him film a music video in Leysdown, while the month ended with the news that Canterbury's favourite son, Christopher Marlowe was to be credited as a co-author on some of the works of William Shakespeare.

November

The world was shocked as Donald Trump swept into the White House in an extraordinary presidential election in November, backed by his new best friend Nigel Farage, seemingly never out of the spotlight in 2016.

Back on this side of the Atlantic, the approval of two controversial projects - a garden town in Shepway for up to 12,000 homes, and the Southborough Hub near

Tunbridge Wells - both ruffled plenty of feathers.

The Manston Airport saga took yet another turn when the site's owners sold its other major venture in the county, the Discovery Park business estate in Sandwich (pictured), to switch full focus to its Stone Hill Park project, where it aims to develop homes and leisure facilities on land at the former airport.

In the courts, there were guilty verdicts for Stefano Brizzi - the Breaking Bad fan who killed and dissolved the



body of Greenhithe PC Gordon Semple in an acid bath and Stephen Port - the serial killer who murdered Gravesend chef Daniel Whitworth - in two of the most high-profile national cases of the year.

December

The year ended with increased fears over the future of education in Kent, with teachers' unions forecasting a £40m budget and 1,000 teacher job losses in the county by 2020.

While the Department for Education slammed the predictions as "irresponsible scaremongering" it received the backing of senior teachers and education chiefs on KCC, suggesting there is a genuine worry over how schools can survive given current funding



pressures.

Meanwhile, headteachers at the county's non-selective schools wrote to the prime

minister opposing her planned expansion of grammar schools - the consultation for which ended in December.

A year of chaos on the rails appeared to come to a head in December as Southern didn't run any trains at all over three days in the run-up to Christmas due to an ongoing row with unions over the role of conductors and driver-only trains.

The operator runs trains from Ashford and Tonbridge in Kent but the knock-on effect was felt on Southeastern services and on the roads as passengers looked for alternative routes to work.

APRIL: The death of Prince at just 57 was shocking. We looked back at his one and only UK festival show when he dazzled the crowds during the 2011 Hop Farm Festival in Paddock Wood.



JUNE: The county hit the streets to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday in style. Communities came together to celebrate the monarch's quite remarkable long life.



JULY: New PM Theresa May named her first cabinet and there were key roles for some of the county's MPs. This year was proof there was never a dull moment in politics.



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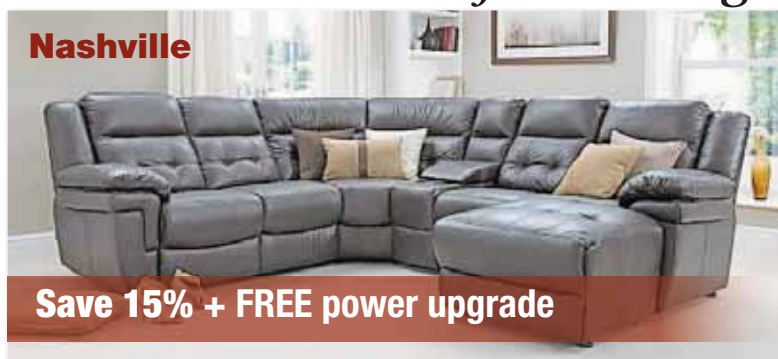
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How excess supermarket goods feed the needy

County councillor **Martin Whybrow**, a Green member of Kent County Council representing Hythe, takes a visit to the charity Fareshare's Ashford depot to find out how it is helping reduce food waste, assist charities and vulnerable people, and provide vital community service chances through its workforce

A TESCO lorry pulls up and soon ten crates of food are being offloaded at the Ashford depot of food charity, Fareshare. All of the produce would have gone to waste but will now be provided to vulnerable families via Fareshare's food banks or to charities in Kent and beyond.

This Fareshare depot alone, one of 21 around the country, handles at least 30 tonnes of produce a month. It is a major logistical challenge, particularly when it is often not known until the last moment what is coming in, sometimes even not until it is being unloaded.

One other worthy aspect of the operation is the workforce. Alongside the few full-time and part-time staff members and volunteers that are helping to relieve the Tesco lorry of its load are prisoners from Standford Hill open prison on the Isle of Sheppey as part of their release programme. Two groups work here each day on two shifts. The depot also works with job centre work placements.

The success – and one challenge – of the operation is the fact that every available space in the warehouse is taken up with produce, so too the two large freezers that were installed when it opened three years ago. Since then, a mezzanine floor has been constructed to provide additional work and storage space.

The bulk of the items that come to this depot are from a nationwide agreement between Fareshare and Tesco, whereby the latter ships excess produce from its distribution centres to the charity. In Kent, the produce comes from Tesco's large centre at Snodland. This is not produce that is past its sell by date – Fareshare can only deal with in-date products – but largely arises because suppliers have delivered too much or there is excess

for other reasons, such as at the end of a promotion. Chris Norman, who runs the Ashford operation, says his wife can now have a good guess at what might be heading Fareshare's way when she visits her local Tesco store.

Fareshare's shelves often hold produce that carry other supermarket brands but these have come from third-party distributors, such as Brakes at Aylesford, not directly from the other chains, at least at present. That unloading of Tesco produce can be repeated several times in a day but the supply is difficult to predict, which means there needs to be a lot of flexibility and pragmatism from Fareshare's staff as well as from the groups that receive it.

The expanding gleaning network in Kent also provides produce. This is the system whereby volunteers descend on farms to harvest produce that has no commercial value. There are other charities involved in this part of the chain, such as Feedback, which is a regular supplier to Fareshare Ashford and to its large depot in Deptford, south London. It is easy to join a glean, merely sign up to be kept informed of when and where they are taking place, and it is a lovely, socially pursued that also provides insights into why our current supermarket-dominated systems result in so much food waste.

On Feedback gleans at large fruit farms recently in Bridge and Littlebourne, both near Canterbury, we heard tales from both farmers about why perfect pears and apples, respectively, had no commercial value. Both orchards had been partially harvested a couple of months earlier, with the supermarkets wanting the fruit in advance to put into storage before reaching their shelves. All of the fruit that was misshapen or too small at that time was left on the trees to ripen

naturally but was no longer wanted. Ironically, as plenty of munching confirmed, the leftover fruit was far tastier than supermarket offerings.

Elsewhere, vegetable crops often fall foul of the system, as highlighted only too well by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's recent high profile television campaigns. On one cauliflower glean, for instance, the problem had been an unseasonably warm spring, an increasingly common type of phenomenon as a result of climate change, so that it is ever harder to predict when produce will be ready to harvest. This does not fit well with rigid supermarket contracts so that, on this occasion, while the cauliflowers were sitting unloved and unwanted in Kent fields, others were being imported by the supermarket in question from Spain.

One word of caution; gleaning fruit at a comfortable height on a mild, sunny day in the Kent countryside is 'gleaning-light'. Harvesting potatoes or cauliflowers in the rain in a muddy field is tougher but there's work for all ages and all abilities, so it is well worthwhile signing up if you have some time to spare. More generally, there may well be ever more need for additional harvesters – both farmers expressed concerns about where their seasonal workforces would come from in the future, post-Brexit.

Back at Fareshare, Chris Norman talks me through the system. There needs to be tight stock control, given the volumes and the variable sell-by dates, so everything that comes in and goes out is logged. There are times, such as a large delivery of meat with a sell-by date of the next day or two, when it is logistically impossible to ship all of it. "It is an unbelievable operation, we never know from one day to the next what is coming in, no day is ever the same," he says.

Fareshare's own small amount of



waste goes for anaerobic digestion, to create energy, and all packaging goes back on the lorries to Tesco and the distributors for recycling. The operation also needs to conform to rigorous health and safety standards, with regular inspections, as per any food-based operation of this type.

Fareshare runs a number of food banks, including in Ashford itself, via the county's children's centres and accessed via referrals from other agencies. Volunteers box up produce for these in Ashford and there is a regular flow out to the centres. More than 1,500 boxes are shipped to the food banks each year.

There are then currently 60 or so charities and other groups that receive produce from the Ashford depot. Examples are Age UK, which often has major catering operations for their clients, homeless charities, hospices, school breakfast clubs and charity or trust-run care homes.

If a charity's kitchen has an inflex-

ible daily menu then Fareshare's system tends not to work; where there is a willingness to use or can freeze whatever is delivered, then it is fine, like a charitable Ready, Steady Cook.

Much of the food is good quality, including from Tesco's Finest range. "People are often surprised when they see homeless people eating prime steaks," says Mr Norman. So an improved diet is an added benefit for recipients. For Tesco, there is kudos from supporting charities and reducing waste, plus reduced landfill charges. "It is commercially worthwhile and it ticks boxes," he says.

It might come as a surprise to learn that Fareshare charges the charities for the food but this makes perfect sense when explained.

Mr Norman estimates that the cost to the charities is typically 20 to 25 percent of what they would pay via alternative sources, so it constitutes a considerable saving. It means, crucially, that Fareshare Kent is moving towards self-funding, with currently around 86 percent of its total costs of around £190,000 per year being covered by its income. This means it has a sustainable footing, without the hand-to-mouth existence that stems from relying on typically ever scarcer grants.

Both Fareshare and Feedback are in constant need of additional volunteers.

"We could take a lot more food," says Mr Norman, and in Ashford the charity is currently looking at how it can expand its storage area. At present, on dry days, some non-perishable goods are wheeled outside to give more space for an operation that is constantly in motion, as lorries come in and the two Fareshare vans head off. There is still a fair amount of bumping into each other but with plenty of good humour, impressive efficiency in a good cause.

RECOVERY: Sue Hawkins has fought back from a severe brain injury 24 years ago and has devoted her life to helping others every since

Brain haemorrhage nearly killed her, now she helps others recover

Adele Couchman speaks to the remarkable Sue Hawkins, from Canterbury, who recently picked up an award for her tireless efforts to help those suffering from the debilitating effects of brain injuries.

WHEN Canterbury mother Sue Hawkins suffered an unexpected brain haemorrhage 24 years ago, she was left unable to walk, talk, or even hold a fork.

Now the 70-year-old brain injury survivor has been nominated for a national award after dedicating 10 years of her life as a volunteer for the charity that helped her get back on her feet.

At an event last Friday, December 16, hosted by Headway - the brain injury association - Mrs Hawkins was announced as a runner-up by double Olympic gold medallist James Cracknell.

Along with only two others across the country, Mrs Hawkins' was short-listed for the Stephen McAleese Outstanding Contribution to Headway Award - an accolade named after a young man who tragically passed away battling back from a brain injury.

Speaking to KoS, the former Canterbury shop assistant recalled the fateful evening in 1992 that saw her battling for 16 months in hospital.

"I had been at work all day, it was a Saturday and I had just been on the phone to my mother.

"I was getting ready to go out and see her and all of a sudden I got this awful headache. I walked around in the garden to get some fresh air and clear my head a bit, and then finally my husband called a doctor.

"They told us to ring an ambulance straight away, and that's as much as I can remember."

She added: "After the brain haem-

orrhage it was like being born again. "Even though I didn't lose my sense of memory, I couldn't speak properly, walk properly and struggled to feed myself. I had essentially lost the ability to carry out personal things we all take for granted."

Before her brain injury, Mrs Hawkins worked as a retail worker at former department store Ricemans (now Fenwick) in Canterbury - but she was forced to quit her job when she became ill.

"The most frustrating thing was not knowing how to speak," she explains, "I knew what I wanted to say, but people couldn't understand me - so when I was in hospital I had to use a typewriter to talk to people.

"I couldn't go back to work and I had to give my driving licence back, which was such a shame as driving was still relatively new to me.

"But my husband told me that out of all people who have a brain haemorrhage, one third of people get better, one third get better with some disability and one third die. So I feel very lucky to be here."

Finally well enough to go home, Mrs Hawkins was eventually persuaded by a family member to attend a support session at Headway East Kent - a local brain injury charity that helped her rebuild her mobility, speech, and other skills she lost after her haemorrhage such as using a computer.

She said: "I have always got to be busy. My husband Denis always tells me to sit down, but I always like to be doing something.

"So when I got better and they asked me if I wanted to be a volunteer,

I jumped at the opportunity as they had helped me so much.

"When I first went there, I didn't want to go. But it has been such an important part of my life and I haven't looked back since.

"The charity has helped me just by being there when I need it, and being surrounded with others going through the same thing."

In 2006 Mrs Hawkins began her decade long stint as a volunteer for Headway whilst still battling daily challenges after her brain injury.

She explained: "I worked in the office, helped with membership and took over the charity lottery once a week. I would also help some of the Headway clients, from making lunch and playing games with them.

"I was making sandwiches one year at Christmas - which is something I hadn't done after my brain haemorrhage. Small things like letting me get hands-on in the kitchen definitely helped me with my recovery."

Having relearned how to cook after brain injury, Mrs Hawkins would often organise dinner for groups of 18 members, with apple and blackberry pies being a particular favourite.

After a decade of voluntary service, Mrs Hawkins this year made the difficult decision to retire - but even now she still helps out once a month at Headway East Kent.

"My mum and dad were brilliant in the early days of my recovery. They came to see me every day and pushed me around the hospital in my wheelchair, but more support was needed.

"Becoming a member of Headway East Kent was the best thing that



SUCCESS: Mrs Hawkins picks up award from James Cracknell

could have happened to me. At first, I was very reluctant to attend the charity's sessions and felt I was in a very different state to the other members with brain injuries.

"The group's chair came to see me and supported me in attending sessions once a week. There are no words to explain what the charity has done for me and volunteering has been my way of saying 'thank you'.

"To see the charity grow from a small port cabin at the Kent & Canterbury hospital to a network of support and day centres across east Kent is very special.

"I felt it was time to step back from volunteering, but I still find myself popping in once a month to help out with various bits and Headway will be a big part of my life for years to come."

Mrs Hawkins was nominated by Linda Kerley, manager of Headway East Kent.

"Sue is a truly special lady," said Mrs Kerley.

"Not only is she single-handedly responsible for monitoring our membership and running the Headway East Kent lottery, but she is also constantly doing round trips of her neighbours to collect items and donations for our centres and fundraising days.

"Although we wish her very well in her decision to retire, she will be sadly missed and she will always be part of our Headway family."

Each year, the Headway Annual Awards celebrate the exceptional efforts of survivors of brain injury, and those caring for and supporting them. In addition the Stephen McAleese Outstanding Contribution to Headway Award, sponsored by No.5 Chambers law firm, awards for carer, volunteer and achiever of the year were also presented.

Headway provides support, services and information to brain injury survivors, their families and carers, as well as to professionals in the health and legal fields. It has more than 125 groups and branches throughout the UK.

■ **For help, visit www.headway.org.uk, call 0808 800 2244 or email helpline@headway.org.uk.**

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Fund to transform abandoned dairy hits £224k in three months

Fundraising efforts gather steam to transform an historic building in the grounds of a public school into holiday accommodation. **Adele Couchman** speaks to those involved in the remarkable project

AN eccentric and abandoned dairy in the countryside could be restored into an unusual holiday home in less than two years time.

Conservation charity the Landmark Trust is three months into a £954,000 fundraising appeal to restore Cobham Dairy - an 18th century building which sits in the historic surroundings of Cobham Hall, an independent school for girls near Gravesend.

And it has already raised nearly a quarter of its target.

After being unused throughout the whole of the 20th century, the 220-year-old dairy has been left vandalised and abandoned.

But with plans to completely revamp the desolate gothic building into a quirky holiday retreat, the building could soon be rescued and restored to its former glory.

Having raised £224,000 so far, the trust hopes to raise the remainder of the sum by autumn next year - meaning the Grade II* dairy could be open to the public as early as autumn 2018.

Alastair Dick-Cleland of the Landmark Trust is campaigning to ensure Cobham Dairy doesn't disappear.

He explained: "We first heard about the dairy about 15 years ago, but the school questioned the idea of part of their grounds being open to the general public.

"All of the other buildings on the grounds of Cobham Hall have been restored, so they have now agreed the dairy is the last piece of the jigsaw that needs restoration.

"This magical little building is a shell of what it used to be, and with a set of the architect's original drawings hopefully we can restore it back to how it was in its heyday."

Set in the 150 acre grounds of the Elizabethan Cobham Hall, which dates back to 1208, the dairy was built in the mid 1790s by James Wyatt - one of the most popular and influential architects of his age. He was commissioned by the 4th Earl of Darnley to design the building for his wife Elizabeth Brownlow - a time when it was fashionable for aristocratic ladies to have picturesque dairies in the grounds of old stately homes. The making of cream, butter and cheese in the distinct building would then survive until the end of the nineteenth century.

In 1962, when Cobham Hall became an independent boarding school, the dairy was already derelict. Although repairs were carried out in the 1980s to make the building weatherproof and secure, Cobham Dairy today remains on the buildings at risk register.

The director of the Landmark Trust Anna Keay said: "Cobham Dairy is a rare and fragile survival. It is unique-

ly captivating; both as a miniature masterpiece by a brilliant architect, but also a window onto the hidden world of 18th century women.

"Today it stands in ruins; with graffiti on the walls, boarded gothic-arched windows, collapsing plaster vaulting and its exterior stripped bare of slate. Once lost, such a precious heritage cannot be retrieved. A new future as a landmark is the only way this gem can survive."

If fundraising goes to plan, the independent school has agreed to lease the building out for 99 years to the Landmark Trust so it can be used as accommodation. Although the conservation charity say there were initial safety concerns flagged by the school about public access to their grounds, plans have been set for a completely separate entrance to the revamped accommodation.

The bursar of Cobham Hall David Standen said: "Having the dairy restored is great from our point of view seeing as there is always a problem with security in semi-derelict buildings.

"Aesthetically, we own that building and wouldn't want it to disappear. We've been trying to find a suitable partner as we are not able to rescue it ourselves."

At around £25-£40 per person per night, the dairy will sleep up to two people with a double bedroom, bathroom and a combined sitting room and dining room.

The restored building will echo the features of its original function, including a marble shelf where the dairymaid once moulded pats of butter. The original stone flooring of the building will still be in-tact - where it will be lifted and put back in place to fit under floor heating - in addition to stain glass leaded windows.

On the exterior, architect Wyatt's original cut slate cladding will be replicated, returning the building to its original crisp white appearance - intended to keep the dairy cool.

Available for a minimum stay of three nights, Mr Dick-Cleland has revealed that the landmark building may also be open to the local community once restored.

He said: "Although the dairy is not that well known to the people in Cobham, we plan to have open access days from time to time.

"The work of the craftspeople involved is something we will be proud to show off and we can't wait to put it back to its former glory."

The specialist heritage insurance firm Ecclesiastical Insurance has pledged £1 for every £1 donated up to a total of £200,000 until March 31 2017. The trust has raised £112,000 so far - bringing the total raised to £224,000 - meaning £88,000 still needs to be raised to secure the full amount of Ecclesiastical's funding pledge.



EMPTY: The old dairy was built in the 1790s by the influential architect James Wyatt



CLOSE: It sits in school grounds

For the remainder of the £954,000 grand total, the Landmark Trust is looking for donations - but is confident it can raise the funds to save the building over the course of the next year.

Mark Hews, group CEO of Ecclesiastical said: "Ecclesiastical is giving back to the communities with whom we do our business. As heritage specialists in the insurance world, I am delighted we are partnering with the Landmark Trust in saving this important building for the nation and at the same time supporting the specialist craftsmen and women who will benefit from applying their skills in a high-quality restoration project."

Over the past five decades, the Landmark Trust has saved nearly 200 historic buildings - all of which are available for self-catering holidays in which the rental income from each building pays for its upkeep.

East



WORK: Building needs extensive work to get it back into shape

kent-life.co.uk kentnews.co.uk

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Pick 'n' Fix is just one way in which SES Business Water are demonstrating their commitment to helping local businesses get watertight for winter. Their recently launched Winter Hub is packed full of useful information, easily digestible tips and expert advice – as well as handy infographics which are free to download and share with your team – because making plans to get your business watertight is easiest when everyone is on-board!

Here in the UK, winter can often mean not only freezing temperatures and possibly snow, but also rain, rain and more rain.

Bad weather and flooding costs businesses of all sizes thousands of pounds each and every year. For smaller businesses, losses could threaten survival – but despite the worrying statistics around winter damage, around 60% of UK businesses have no plans in place. If you would like to find out more about how to protect your business from winter damage, about the small changes which could make a really big difference, and about how SES Business Water can help, why not take a look at their Winter Hub today? www.sesbusinesswater.co.uk/watertight

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Magical teen's operatic changes

Lewis Fuller has already performed breathtaking magic to stars and even royals. Now the 18-year-old has added singing to his range of talents, born from a hobby he worked on while suffering cancer

By Emily King

emily.king@archant.co.uk

A MAGICIAN for the stars has recently unveiled a new, unexpected talent, and taken the plunge of expanding his stage show to include it.

Lewis Fuller, 18, from Tenterden, has wowed big names such as BBC Radio Two's Chris Evans, the Duchess of York Sarah Ferguson, Princess Beatrice, chatshow host Jonathan Ross and The Who's Roger Daltrey with his magic but now aims to delight fans with his opera singing skills as well.

The young businessman, who suffered from childhood bone cancer, began practising magic from his hospital bed after his dad Jason bought him a magic set.

"From then I carried on practising and met up with other magicians who agreed that I should try to make a profession from it," says Mr Fuller. "I saw an opportunity and I grabbed it."

His love for magic actually began after he started singing.

"I've always sang, from when I was a child," informs the performer. "I joined the band The Tuesdays not long ago and then I had a couple of sessions with their tutor Maxine. She told me that because of my vocal range I would suit opera. We tried a few songs and went from there. Since then I've recorded and released them on Soundcloud."

Mr Fuller's decision to combine his talents was purely a business decision.

He says: "It's a unique thing to offer for my age and comes as a surprise package."

"When I'm on stage I do three hours of magic, introduce speeches via some mind reading tricks, and then I proceed to tell the audience that the booked singer hasn't arrived and that I'll be taking on the challenge. I unexpectedly sing opera, and that is where the surprise element comes in."

His combined act is a way for him to "reinvent myself, push myself and become more professional", and along with the new act comes a state-of-the-art website.

"Since I launched my new website last week I've been inundated with enquires and the social media promotional video has had a few thousand hits and share," says Mr Fuller. "I'm really proud of it."

Despite the star-quality audience Mr Fuller receives, he claims he "doesn't get nervous" and that "they're just another person to entertain, it's exciting."

Chris Evans proves to be his biggest celebrity fan. He shares his claim-to-fame experiences saying: "I was invited onto The One Show twice when Chris presented it. The last time Chris presented he asked me to come back as one of his top ten most memorable guests. I even got to go to the after



FAME: From performing for the likes of Princess Beatrice, right, to Chris Evans, above, and the Duchess of York, far right, Lewis Fuller's star is rising ever higher.

party with him.

"I met Sarah Ferguson at her Children in Crisis charity gala dinner, that's also when I met Princess Beatrice."

"Roger Daltrey heard me sing and inspired me to keep going. I met him at an event at the BBC Tower in London and we talked about singing. He asked me to sing for him on the day and when I did he said 'it brought tears to my eyes'."

"As for Jonathan Ross, that was at another event, and he's lovely and chatty. Literally the same person you see on TV."

Mr Fuller often performs at charity events, and has three chosen charities - Teenage Cancer Trust, Rays of Sunshine, and Bone Cancer Research Trust - which he constantly carries out work for.

His charity work stems from his own personal experience of the im-



portant work the charities carry out. He overcame bone cancer, osteosarcoma, which manifested itself in his right collarbone, as a child, and is now passionate about working with these organisations.

Without the magic set Mr Fuller re-

ceived in his hospital bed as a child, he claims his act may not have "come together".

You can now listen to the performer's version of the Andrea Bocelli classics Because We Believe and Can't Help Falling In Love, together with

Un Giorno Per Noi made famous by Josh Groban, all of which have been recently recorded at the digital recording studios Ten 21 in Bearsted.

■ They are available to hear on his website www.lewisfuller.co.uk



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SUE, 60s lady, calling all gents who seek a mature solvent stylish lady. I can wine and dine you, you will have a nice time, call or text me. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424781

KATIE, 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. **ACA:** Tel: 0906 515 3002 **Box No:** 419673

ATTRACTIVE, genuine lady, own home, loves to spoil a man, give me a call or text. **ACA:** Tel: 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424673

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters. **ACA:** Tel: 0906 515 3010 **Box No:** 409715

BRUNETTE lady, 70, slim, sophisticated, size 10, kind of Helen Mirren as a brunette, lives near Tunbridge Wells, WLTm a genuine, hopefully fully oriented gentleman. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424877

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel No:** 0906 515 3018 **Box No:** 413399

CAROL, mid 50s lady, young at heart, attractive and sexy (so I'm told!) Give me a call if you are a gent with GSOH. **ACA:** Tel No: 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424783

ANGELA, 48yrs, seeks male companion for nights out, dining, maybe more. **ACA** or text me. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424495

PRESENTABLE divorced lady, young 60, many interests, animal lover, seeks outgoing, cheerful, honest, smart looking man, for cultural times. **Text only Mailbox:** 5576629

WENDY, 44yrs, dark haired beauty with blue eyes and a fab figure. WLTm gent any age, give me a call and I promise to call you back, or text/email. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424339

MELANIE, 40yrs, varied interests, attractive, sensual lady seeks gent any age or status, call, see what happens. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424337

mydate24

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. **ACA:** Tel: 0906 515 3022 **Box No:** 421375

JACKIE, 56yrs, attractive lady who is lots of fun seeks like-minded gent for nights in, days out and much much more. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424481

HI Gents, I'm Kelly, a down to earth lady, 35yrs, happily brunette, seeking someone with GSOH, looks unimportant, any age. **ACA:** Tel: 0906 515 3026 **Box No:** 423035

SARAH, mature feminine lady, kind caring but still has a sensual side, hoping to meet like minded, confident, non smoking gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424777

NAUGHTY curvy 46yr old lady, outgoing and bubbly with a naughty side and lots of banter. **WLTm** chap 30+. If you are married even better. **ACA:** Tel: 0906 515 3014 **Box No:** 424543

MARY, professional mature lady, loves life, very sociable and fun, seeks gent for good conversation and happy times. All calls and texts answered. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424775

SARAH, 39yrs, married, seeking chap for no strings intimate times. Special friendship, mutual respect. Give me a call. **Tel No:** 0906 515 3030 **Box No:** 408291

HELEN, mid 50s naughty lady seeks some fun times with gent any age. **ACA:** Tel No: 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424493

JULIE, 50yrs, tall slim dark haired lady, sociable and fun loving. New to the area so WLTm men friends for fun, maybe more. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424497

MALE, 58, wishes to meet attractive female, into music, live bands, cinema and some sports, for nights out socialising and maybe more. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424979

LIVE I'm Darren, down to earth guy, lives in Kent, likes Marisa, looking for someone special to meet and have a laugh with. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424951

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-45. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 414421

NICK, mature male, builder, tattoo, plenty of money, looking for discreet meets, no strings in the Kent area. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424787

BUE, outgoing lady, enjoys life, likes meals, holidays, WLTm mature gentleman to share interests and spend quality time together. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424669

JEAN, mature lady, genuine with many hobbies, slim, blonde and attractive. WLTm interesting gent with GSOH, must be cheerful, looks unimportant. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424675

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and openminded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. **ACA:** Tel: 0906 515 3008 **Box No:** 422365

HELLO Gents, I'm a mature attractive interesting lady, with gorgeous eyes. I'm smart, sophisticated, love theatre and films. Give me a call or text me. Looks unimportant, must be kind. **ACA:** Tel No: 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424331

WIDOW, 62, short, looking for friendship at present, interested? Ha ha got to phone to find out more! Call Jan. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424195

ORIENTAL lady, honest, caring, loves walking, WLTm a reliable, sincere man for LTR. **Text only Mailbox:** 5443434

RETIRED lady, an outgoing person, enjoys life, likes meals out, holidays, WLTm someone to share interests with, and quality time. **Text only Mailbox:** 5552642

LESLEY, 66, retired beauty therapist, blonde hair, blue eyes, size 14, likes going out, traveling, holidays, arts, looking for a nice guy, 57-67, would be great to get a reply. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424147

SINGLE lady, 65, blonde, quiet nature, likes the outdoors, picnics, jiving, WLTm single gentleman for companionship and possible romance. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 423411

WIDOW, 75, brown hair and eyes, likes walking, pub lunches, places of interest, good company and lots more, seeking a kind genuine male, a n/s, 70-80. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 423359

HELLO my name is Paul, 43, 5ft9, from Sittingbourne in Kent, looking for someone to have some fun with and see where it goes! **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 422905

GENTLEMAN, 70yrs old, clean-shaven with a good head of hair and a smart dresser, hoping to meet a lady for friendship/relationship. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 423645

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 388372

BRIAN, 61s, fit, grey but genuine and kind, looking for a naughty female, for no strings adult fun, if you're interested please get back to me. **ACA:** Tel No: 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 423483

MALE, 53, 5/8, single, hardworking, looking for slim/short lady, 40-56. Maidstone, Kent. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 423363

OUTGOING male, seeking attractive female, likes sports, music, cinema and nights out. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 418793

ANDREW, 50, slim to medium build, lives in Ashford/Kent area, WLTm a woman, 40-70, for discreet fun, would be great to hear from you so get back to find out more! **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 423271

GARY, 52, caring, likes snooker, bowls, looking for a nice woman to meet and fall in love with. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 423145

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 383719

CALLING all Gentlemen! I'm Janet a mature solvent stylish lady. I'm waiting for you to call me so we can wine/dine and have some good times. **ACA:** Tel No: 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424335

Hi I'm Angie, attractive petite mid 50s lady. I'm a very very active lady, with lots of interests. WLTm chap with GSOH, looks age unimportant. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424333

HELLO Gents, I'm a mature attractive interesting lady, with gorgeous eyes. I'm smart, sophisticated, love theatre and films. Give me a call or text me. Looks unimportant, must be kind. **ACA:** Tel No: 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424331

WIDOW, 62, short, looking for friendship at present, interested? Ha ha got to phone to find out more! Call Jan. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424195

ORIENTAL lady, honest, caring, loves walking, WLTm a reliable, sincere man for LTR. **Text only Mailbox:** 5443434

RETIRED lady, an outgoing person, enjoys life, likes meals out, holidays, WLTm someone to share interests with, and quality time. **Text only Mailbox:** 5552642

LESLEY, 66, retired beauty therapist, blonde hair, blue eyes, size 14, likes going out, traveling, holidays, arts, looking for a nice guy, 57-67, would be great to get a reply. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 424147

SINGLE lady, 65, blonde, quiet nature, likes the outdoors, picnics, jiving, WLTm single gentleman for companionship and possible romance. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 423411

WIDOW, 75, brown hair and eyes, likes walking, pub lunches, places of interest, good company and lots more, seeking a kind genuine male, a n/s, 70-80. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 423359

HELLO my name is Paul, 43, 5ft9, from Sittingbourne in Kent, looking for someone to have some fun with and see where it goes! **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 422905

GENTLEMAN, 70yrs old, clean-shaven with a good head of hair and a smart dresser, hoping to meet a lady for friendship/relationship. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 423645

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 388372

BRIAN, 61s, fit, grey but genuine and kind, looking for a naughty female, for no strings adult fun, if you're interested please get back to me. **ACA:** Tel No: 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 423483

MALE, 53, 5/8, single, hardworking, looking for slim/short lady, 40-56. Maidstone, Kent. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 423363

OUTGOING male, seeking attractive female, likes sports, music, cinema and nights out. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 418793

ANDREW, 50, slim to medium build, lives in Ashford/Kent area, WLTm a woman, 40-70, for discreet fun, would be great to hear from you so get back to find out more! **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 423271

GARY, 52, caring, likes snooker, bowls, looking for a nice woman to meet and fall in love with. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 423145

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. **Tel No:** 0906 515 7112 **Box No:** 383719

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CALL CHARGES: DATING 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. 0844 calls cost 7 pence per min, 090 calls cost £1.55 per min, plus your phone company's access charge. Calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. **TEXT:** Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per week. To unsubscribe to text alerts, text **DATING STOP** to 83333. To cancel free match alerts, text **STOP** to 07781474042. For full T&Cs go to www.localdates-terms.co.uk. **REPLY BY TEXT:** 80098/89990 costs £1.50 per SMS received (max 150 characters). Guaranteed up to 4 messages for each message you send. Service only available where phone numbers shown. Messages are moderated. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. This service is not computer generated. All messages are responded to by real service users. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to choose a public place and do not give personal details to people you have not met. To STOP text stop to 80098/89990. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 720 7130. **ALL SERVICES:** By texting any shortcode you consent to the owner of that shortcode sending you the occasional marketing message. To opt out of receiving these send NO INFO to 80098. **DATA PROTECTION:** Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd, RH16 3EG, 0207 720 7130. We will collect the details you provide and may send you details of other services and events operated by us. We may pass your details onto this newspaper for marketing or PhonePayPlus for regulatory purposes. Advertisers may come from our national database and from our pdc app, your ad may also appear on our dating app. wc: 24/12/16

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LONGEVITY: He may now be hurtling towards picking up his pension book, but Jim Davidson remains a controversial figure

Comic celebrates 40 years on stage with foul mood

Emily King goes head-to-head with a charmless Jim Davidson. He blinks first

JIM Davidson being unpleasant is hardly headline news. Yet he is so effortlessly talented at it when he calls KoS in pursuit of publicity for his latest tour that it still comes as a little surprise.

Within five minutes he has sworn more times than a family newspaper could ever cope with, complained that our reporter is too young to know who he is, and then hung up in a fit of pique.

We perhaps shouldn't be too surprised. After all, this is a man who is banned from the Assembly Hall in Tunbridge Wells after he offended staff, and whom the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury says won't accept attempts to book him. Theatre director Mark Everett saying at the time: "He can be very racist, he can be homophobic, he can be very unpleasant about people with disabilities.

"He tends to use more than the average amount of foul language in some people's view, there is no way I want to censor that, but I'm very conscious that a lot of people find that very offensive."

Davidson, needless to say, denies such claims.

And therein lies Davidson's problem and, possibly, his key to success. Because despite mainstream success fronting the likes of the Generation Game and Big Break, he remains very much of the old school and proud of it. His disdain for any newcomer to the scene has always been worn on his sleeve - from the alternative comedy breakthrough in the 1980s to the current crop of talents such as Michael McIntyre and Miranda Hart (whom he recently termed simply "not funny").

Yet there is no denying his longevity.

Something reflected in the title of his latest stand-up tour - 40 Years On - reflecting on a career which first saw him hit the big time after he performed on talent show New Faces back in 1976.

Now 63, he's far from the fresh-faced performer of years gone by. Yet, just two years ago, he even enjoyed a brief revival in fortunes when he appeared on - and won - Celebrity Big Brother.

Now, however, it's touring which generates his income.

"It's how I earn my money," he explains to KoS. "It's a long time to be in show business, and it's a way to say to all these young c***s like [Michael] McIntyre and others who don't think I'm funny but do think I'm a racist 'look at what I've done, and all the things that I've done'."

The chip on his shoulder at those who don't fully appreciate him is

clearly not dwindling in size.

Nor is he keen on today's talent shows - despite his own path into the spotlight.

He explained: "Shows like X Factor and Britain's Got Talent just make the judges like Simon Cowell look good."

"It's about amateurs trying to be good at something. New Faces wasn't like that, it wasn't about the judges. It was professional comedians trying to get work."

Jim Davidson is an odd fellow. Pointlessly angry during an interview his people arranged, he signs off simply by hanging up. Let's put it down to him being tired.

Should you wish to hear more of him, his stand-up comes to Dartford's Orchard Theatre on February 3.

For tickets and more information visit orchardtheatre.co.uk or call 01322 220000.

» Email us details of your event to: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Tel: 01233 653476



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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES



M20 (JUNCTIONS 1-7) AND M26 (JUNCTIONS 1-3) MOTORWAYS TEMPORARY TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

Notice is hereby given that Highways England Company Limited (a) has made an Order on the M20 and M26 Motorways in the County of Kent, under Section 14(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 because works are proposed to be executed on the road.

The effect of the Order is to:-

- impose a 24-hour 40mph speed limit on;
 - the eastbound carriageway of the M20 between Nipcar Lane underbridge and a point 300 metres east of Forstal Road overbridge;
 - the westbound carriageway of the M20 from a point 500 metres west of Junction 7 (A249) to a point 200 metres east of Ford Lane overbridge;
 - the eastbound carriageway of the M26 from a point 200 metres west of the road leading from Junction 2a (A20) to its merge point with the M20 at Junction 3; the hard shoulder adjacent to the eastbound carriageway of the M20 between Junction 3 (M26) and Junction 7 (A249);
 - the hard shoulder as described in c) below;
 - the entry slip roads leading to both carriageways at Junction 4 (A228);
 - the entry slip roads leading to both carriageways at Junction 5 (A20);
 - the entry slip roads leading to both carriageways at Junction 6 (A229); and
 - the distributor roads running adjacent to the M20 in both directions between Junction 5 (A20) and Junction 6 (A229);
- authorise the overnight closure of;
 - both carriageways of the M20 between Junction 1 (M25 Junction 3) and Junction 3 (M26 Link);
 - both carriageways of the M26 between Junction 2a (A20) and M20 Junction 3;
 - the link road connecting the clockwise carriageway of the M25 to the eastbound carriageway of the M20 (M25 Junction 3/M20 Junction 1);
 - the slip road leading to the eastbound carriageway of the M20 at Junction 1 (M25 Junction 3);
 - the slip roads leading to both carriageways of the M26 at Junction 2a (A20);
 - both carriageways of the M20 between Junction 3 (M26 Link) and Junction 7 (A249);
 - the slip roads leading to and from both carriageways at Junction 4 (A228);
 - the slip road leading to the eastbound distributor road adjacent to the M20 at Junction 5 (A20);
 - the slip road leading from the eastbound distributor road adjacent to the M20 at Junction 6 (A229);
 - the entry slip roads leading to and from the eastbound distributor road adjacent to the M20 at Junction 6 (A229);
 - the slip road leading to the westbound distributor road adjacent to the M20 at Junction 6 (A229); and
 - the distributor roads running adjacent to the M20 in both directions between Junction 5 (A20) and Junction 6 (A229);
- permit overnight hard shoulder running on;
 - the eastbound carriageway of the M20 from a point 200 metres east of Ford Lane overbridge to a point 200 metres east of the centreline of the A229 overbridge (Junction 6); and
 - the westbound carriageway of the M20 from a point 800 metres west of Boxley Road overbridge to a point 200 metres east of Ford Lane overbridge.

These measures are in the interests of road safety while contractors undertake Advanced Motorway Indicator (AMI) works and All Lane Running (ALR) survey works.

It is expected that the work will last for approximately 5 months starting on or after Monday 2nd January 2017. The overnight closures will be conducted in phases. Those described in b) i) to v) above will take place on -

Mondays to Thursdays 22:00 - 05:30
Fridays 23:00 - 06:00
Saturdays 22:00 - 06:00 and
Sundays 22:30 - 05:30.

The remaining closures will take place between 20:00 and 06:00. Hard shoulder running will be in operation between 22:00 and 05:30.

The Order will come into force on 31 December 2016 and have a maximum duration of eighteen months.

Traffic affected by the closures will be directed to leave and return to the carriageways, or diverted using other junctions on the M20 and M26, the M25, M2, A20, A228, A229, A249, Ashford Way, and the distributor roads running adjacent to both carriageways between Junction 5 (A20) and Junction 6 (A229). The route in operation will vary depending on the closure in force.

The temporary mandatory speed limits, closures and diversion routes will be clearly indicated by traffic signs when they are in operation during the works period.

M Taylor, an Official of Highways England Co. Ltd.
Ref: HE/SE/2016/M20/170

(a) Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363).
Registered Office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4LZ. A company registered in England and Wales.

For enquiries, please contact the Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000 or info@highwaysengland.co.uk
http://www.highways.gov.uk



M2 MOTORWAY - JUNCTIONS 2 - 3 (NEAR CHATHAM) TEMPORARY TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

Notice is hereby given that Highways England Company Limited intends to make an Order on the M2 Motorway in the County of Kent, under Section 14(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 because works are proposed to be executed on the road.

The effect of the Order would be to authorise the overnight closure of:-

- the southbound carriageway of the M2 between Junction 2 (A228) and Junction 3 (A229/A2045); and
- the entry slip road at Junction 2 (A228).

These measures would be in the interests of road safety while contractors undertake resurfacing, inlays/overlays, road marking, reinstallation of studs, and all associated carriageway repair work.

It is expected that the work would last for approximately 3 weeks starting on or after Monday 16th January 2017. The overnight closures would take place between 20:00 and 06:00 (maximum period).

The Order would come into force on 16 January 2017 and have a maximum duration of eighteen months.

Traffic affected by the closures would be diverted using the A228, M20 and A229.

The temporary closures and diversion route would be clearly indicated by traffic signs when they are in operation during the works period.

M Taylor, an Official of Highways England Co. Ltd.
Ref: HE/SE/2017/M2/15

Highways England Company Limited, (Company No. 9346363).
Registered Office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4LZ. A company registered in England and Wales.

For enquiries, please contact the Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000 or info@highwaysengland.co.uk
http://www.highways.gov.uk

Application for New Premises Licence

I, Craig Reade of Café Bruges, 13, Market Buildings Maidstone, Kent ME14 1HP hereby give notice that I have made an application to the Maidstone Borough Council c/o The Licensing Partnership Sevenoaks, The Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HG for the grant of a new premises licence to permit:

- The sale of alcohol and
- Provision of Late Night Refreshment

In respect of Café Bruges, 13, Market Buildings Maidstone, Kent ME14 1HP

The application can be viewed at the offices of the Licensing Authority, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. - Monday to Friday (except public holidays) or www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

Any representations against this application must be made in writing and received by the Licensing Service at the above address, by no later than 18th January 2017

Any person may make representations on licensing objectives grounds only i.e. the prevention of crime and disorder, the prevention of public nuisance, public safety and the protection of children from harm. Copies of all representations will be sent to the applicant. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5000.

Stephen Thomas LAW, 8, Grassmere, Leybourne, Kent ME19 5QP

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Get ready to tap your toes for Thoroughly Modern Millie tour

By Emily King
emily.king@archant.co.uk

Award-winning musical, Thoroughly Modern Millie, will tour the UK in 2017 and is coming to Dartford and Bromley.

The story is of Kansas-born Millie who is determined to make it big in New York City by aiming to marry for money rather than love, and her madcap adventures.

Having won six Tony Awards including best musical, Thoroughly Modern Millie is based on the 1967 Academy Award-winning film which featured Julie Andrews.

It first opened in Broadway in 2002. Joanne Clifton, world-class dancer and professional dancer, will take on the role of Millie Dillmount.

Ms Clifton has just finished a series of Strictly Come Dancing which she won with partner Ore Oduba.

It was only her second year with a partner on the show - in 2014 she partnered Scott Mills but they only reached week six of the competition. She did however, win the Christmas special in 2015 along-



AWARDS: The show has won six Tony Awards, including best musical

side McFly's Harry Judd. EastEnders star Michelle Collins has recently been announced as Mrs Meers - evil owner of the Hotel Priscilla - for the first shows on the tour but may have made way for a replacement by the time it reaches Kent.

The play promises to take the audience back to the "height of the jazz age in 1920s New York City, when 'moderns' including a flap-

per named Millie Dillmount were bobbing their hair, raising their hemlines, entering the workforce, and rewriting the rules of love".

The Examiner reviewed the show deeming it "a thoroughly feel-good, joyous romp... Perfect family entertainment." And Variety made similar comments about the jovial show saying "tapping feet, glitzy sets and costumes, happy-ever-afters and smiles for days."

The performance, based on the original story and screenplay by Richard Morris, will be at the Orchard Theatre in Dartford from April 10-15, and also at Churchill Theatre Bromley from June 5-10.

For tickets call respective box offices on 01322 220000 for Dartford, and 020 3285 6000 for Bromley, or visit the theatre websites www.orchardtheatre.co.uk and www.churchilltheatre.co.uk.

I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue

THE award-winning panel game show I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue will be coming to Margate's Winter Gardens on February 4 2017.

For tickets visit margatewin-tergardens.co.uk.

Milton Jones tour dates

REGULAR panelist on BBC2's Mock the Week, Milton Jones, is bringing his stand-up show to Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall on October 8 and Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre on November 12.

For tickets are visit assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or marlowetheatre.com.

Cinderella the ballet

A CINDERELLA ballet - My First Ballet, that can be enjoyed by children as young as three is coming to Dartford's Orchard Theatre on April 8 2017.

For tickets and details visit orchardtheatre.co.uk.

Macbeth takes to stage

THEATRE company, The Company, will perform Macbeth at the Theatre Royal in Margate on February 24 2017.

The companies director, Ellen Havard has collaborated with composer Verity Standen to create a 'full-on' production experience.

For tickets visit theatreroyal-margate.com

Behaviour Support Assistant

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- have good attendance and punctuality record;
- be experienced in monitoring progress using data effectively and implementing creative strategies to ensure achievement of identified SMEH students;
- be a positive role model supporting students with SMEH issues;
- be highly organised and able to manage their time well, when juggling a range of tasks;
- have a cheerful disposition, show confidence and contribute ideas to work within a team;
- demonstrate effective examples of initiatives they have developed in an educational setting;
- be prepared to work flexibly and undertake overtime as and when required.

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We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for our students and to supporting our staff through excellent CPD opportunities.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from our H R Manager on 01474 566552 ext 1120 or email k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk.

Closing date: 6th January 2017, 9.00am
Interviews: Week commencing 9th January 2017
CVs without an application form will not be accepted.
Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
Thamesview School operates a no smoking policy.

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Parsons brings the laughs

COMEDIAN Andy Parsons live tour Peak Bullsh*t is coming to Margate's Theatre Royal on May 5.

For tickets visit the website theatreroyalmargate.com or call 01843 292795.



Little Mermaid's splash hit

GUARANTEED to make a splash at easter, is the musical adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's The Little Mermaid.

Sea King Triton's daughter Ariel will cause chaos when she comes to Margate's Theatre Royal on April 8 and 9.

To book visit theatreroyalmargate.com

Motown magic returns

AFTER a sold out 2016 show, The Magic of Motown is returning to Margate's Winter Gardens on March 25, to liven up the new year.

For tickets visit the website margatewintergardens.co.uk



Praise be for Sister Act

ALEXANDRA Burke takes on the role of Deloris Van Cartier in Sister Act The Musical, coming to Dartford's Orchard Theatre from January 2 to 7, and Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre from June 26 to July 1.

For tickets, visit orchardtheatre.co.uk or marlowetheatre.com.

'Hilarious' stories gifted by Aggers and Tuffers

By Emily King

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COMEDY stage show, An Evening with Aggers and Tuffers is coming to Folkestone in the new year.

Following in the footsteps of Geoffrey Boycott, Sunil Gavaskar and Graeme Swann, Phil Tufnell teams up with his Test Match Special colleague, Jonathan Agnew, for a cricket themed show in January.

Staged as a question and answer night, they delve into their pasts and recreate hilarious stories from their careers in and following the game.

Spin bowler Phil Tufnell has made arguably a big impact since retiring from the sport having been crowned king of jungle in TV's I'm A Celebrity as well as making regular appearances on long-running quiz show A Question of Sport.

He has even pulled on his dancing shoes for a stint on Strictly Come Dancing.

Dubbed the bad boy of English cricket in the 1990s, he was rarely spotted off the field without a



cigarette or a beer and developed the nickname The Cat because of his love of dressing room naps.

Former England star Jonathan Agnew - or Aggers as he is now best known - played for Leicestershire and made a number of appearances for England.

A stalwart on TMS, he is also a regular cricket expert on BBC Radio 5 Live.

The show promises to be a fascinating, entertaining, no-holds-barred evening for cricket fans and non-lovers of the

game alike and there will be an opportunity for the audience to tweet Aggers with their own questions.

The event is being run in aid of the Professional Cricketers' Association which is raising money from the evening which will go to the organisation's benevolent fund.

Their show is coming to the Leas Cliff Hall on January 18.

Tickets range from £26 - £29 and can be purchased via atgtickets.com.



TUFFERS: Phil Tufnell



AGGERS: Jonathan Agnew

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Plan ahead for bigger, better harvest next year

Growing compatible crops together is likely to reap richer harvests, so says **Hannah Stephenson**

CREATING a vegetable patch, whether on a large piece of ground or within a smaller raised bed, can bring rich rewards if you plan carefully.

Growing compatible crops together is likely to reap richer harvests, while not treading soil from one bed to another and keeping your tools clean between use will help keep soil healthy and reduce the likelihood of the spread of pests and diseases.

The idea behind crop rotation is that you avoid planting the same crop in the same bit of ground more than one year in four to stop root diseases building up and to make the most of resources such as manure, which is only needed for certain crops but

for others (like root crops).

Crops which can be grown together include legumes (peas and beans), comprising peas and broad, French and runner beans; the onion family, including garlic, leeks, onions, shallots and spring onions; roots and tubers, including carrots, parsnips, beetroot, potatoes and tomatoes; and brassicas (cabbage family), featuring Brussels sprouts, cabbages, Chinese greens, pak choi, radish, cauliflowers, swedes and turnips.

Green veg which require regular watering can be separated from less thirsty root crops, lettuces are often grown with cabbage family crops as they need organic matter, nitrogen fertiliser and regular watering. Perennial veg like rhubarb and asparagus



WINTER: An array of vegetables

are best kept out of crop rotation beds.

Squeeze quick-growing crops of lettuce and other salad leaves wherever they will fit, using them as a catch crop between slower-growing types such as winter brassicas.

By swapping the main groups of vegetables around in a regular order, you can make best use of the nutrients in the soil because different crops need different amounts of nutrients.

If you're starting a new plot or creating raised vegetable beds, prepare the ground thoroughly, digging to break up compacted soil and weeding thoroughly. Then add bulky organic matter before planting season starts. It may be better to do this in spring, using compost as a surface mulch.

If you have an existing vegetable

plot, dig it over each winter, inverting lumps of soil to bury annual weeds, but leave the clods intact. Frost and rain will break them down and leave a crumbly soil by spring. On light, sandy soils, wait until spring before digging. Sandy soils may also need liming regularly to give them a neutral pH. If in doubt, buy a soil tester to test the pH of your soil.

The four-year rotation is a good technique which is easy to plan. Divide your plot into four separate sections if you have space, and then operate a four-year rotation on each.

What to do this week: Order or buy seeds of plants that need to be sown in mid and late winter: Plant brightly coloured winter stems; And prune winter-flowering shrubs.

The Crucible ignites

PLAYWRIGHT Arthur Miller's American drama, *The Crucible* is coming to Dartford's Orchard Theatre March 14-18.

Starring Coronation Street's Charlie Condou as the witch-hunter Reverend Hale, this production takes a Brechtian look at this violent story of frail reason in the face of hysteria.

To book tickets or for more information visit orchardtheatre.co.uk

Coal songs and stories

THE PITMEN Poets will be performing at Margate's Theatre Royal on January 29 bring song and tales from the coalfields.

The group is made up of Billy Mitchell, Bob Fox, Benny Graham and Jez Lowe and the show features footage and photographs.

The performance will start at 7.30pm and tickets are £18.

For further information visit www.theatre-royalmargate.com.

Simply the best?

TOTALLY Tina, a tribute to Tina Turner, will be coming to Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall on January 25.

Liverpool born and based singer Justine Riddoch takes on the role of Tina Turner, having won the ITV show *Stars In Their Eyes* in 2002.

Rather than being a biography, this show focuses on Ms Turner's live concert career.

For tickets visit ticketmaster.co.uk

Joe takes on Joseph

X FACTOR winner, Joe McElderry is taking on the lead role when Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat comes to Dartford's Orchard Theatre from February 7 to 11.

Mr McElderry was just 18 when he won the sixth series of the X Factor, and he then went on to win talent shows *Popstar to Opera*, and Channel 4's skiing programme, *The Jump*.

For tickets visit orchardtheatre.co.uk

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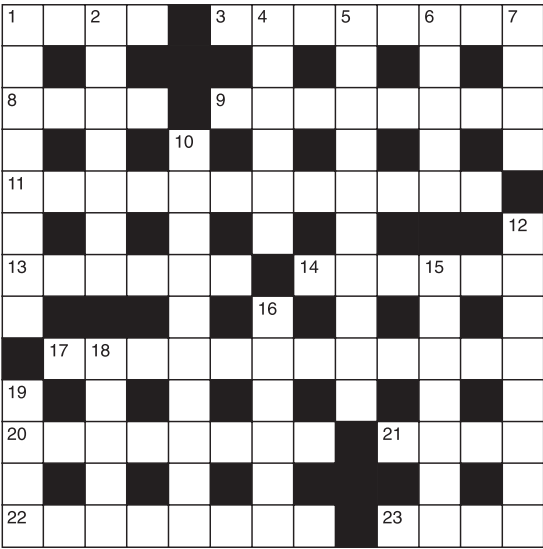
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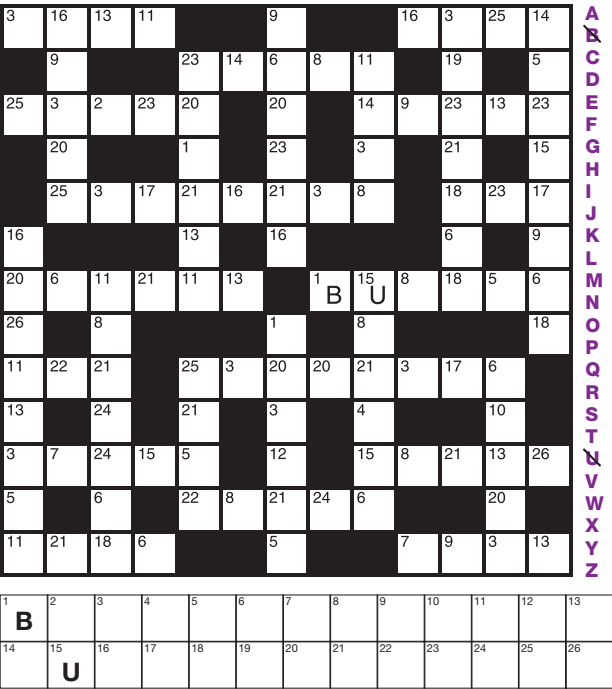
- Across**
- 1. Compassion (4)
 - 3. Atrophy (8)
 - 8. Vivacity (4)
 - 9. Status (8)
 - 11. Aggravating (12)
 - 13. Coarse (6)
 - 14. Tension (6)
 - 17. Undeniable (12)
 - 20. Made up (8)
 - 21. Agreement (4)
 - 22. Imperil (8)
 - 23. Transmit (4)
- Down**
- 1. Keep (8)
 - 2. Toil (7)
 - 4. Ripe (6)
 - 5. Establish (10)
 - 6. Foreign (5)
 - 7. Rim (4)
 - 10. Ghost (10)
 - 12. Acquiesced (8)
 - 15. Hug (7)
 - 16. Orb (6)
 - 18. Wanderer (5)
 - 19. Pain (4)

Cryptic

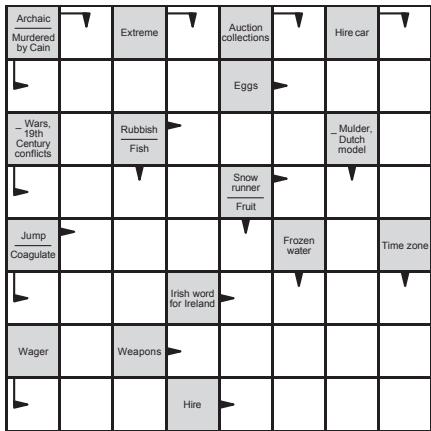
- Across**
- 1. Hair useful for security? (4)
 - 3. As might be expected from a generous man of letters? (4,4)
 - 8. In this way I object to an indefinite number (4)
 - 9. Charge on compartment for horse (8)
 - 11. Following suit, being intimate? (5,2,5)
 - 13. Missing sailor made to leave (6)
 - 14. Pithy expression describes an aspect about right (6)
 - 17. Keep quiet about miners late in (6,6)
 - 20. Disturbed at vision when calling (2,1,5)
 - 21. Bad habit with a strong hold (4)
 - 22. Prepare to greet day? (3,5)
 - 23. Overtake pig-headed idiot (4)
- Down**
- 1. Wane in enthusiasm and get beaten in eliminating round (4,4)
 - 2. The scope of a direction instrument (7)
 - 4. Choice of number one to rise to the top, surprisingly (6)
 - 5. One girl had blonde tresses (6,4)
 - 6. Ore is possibly used in basketwork (5)
 - 7. 501 finished (4)
 - 10. Tolerate a team and move out of the way (5,5)
 - 12. Uneasy that the others don't get so much (8)
 - 15. Heather, following in the morning, reaches a Continent (7)
 - 16. United Nations type is inconsiderate (6)
 - 18. Former stage turn? That's absolutely correct (5)
 - 19. Air on one string written by boy? (4)

CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter. For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.



Arrowword

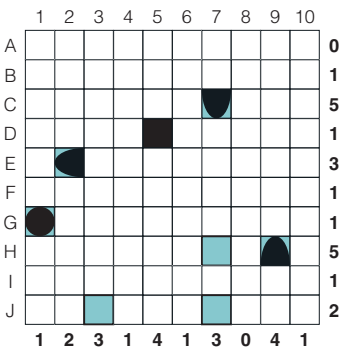


Enter your answers in the direction indicated by the arrows.

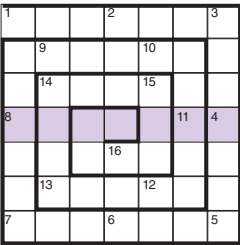
Battleships

Find where ships shown below are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some of the squares have been filled to start you off.

THE FLEET
1 x Battleship
2 x Cruiser
3 x Destroyer
4 x Submarine



Word Spiral



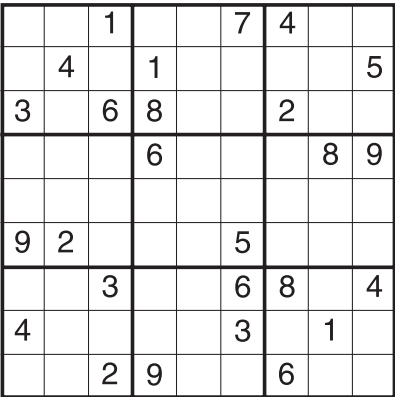
Starting from 1, fill in the grid clockwise with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the key word in the shaded boxes.

- 1. Wound mark
- 2. Roster
- 3. Nautical cry
- 4. Period of time
- 5. Telephone
- 6. Asian desert
- 7. Notion
- 8. Skin problem
- 9. Therefore
- 10. Portent
- 11. Require
- 12. Twofold
- 13. Breathing organ
- 14. Equipment
- 15. Space
- 16. Legend

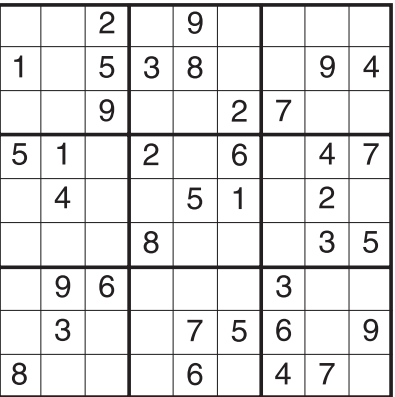
Keyword clue: A boy's name

SUDOKU

Hard



Easy



Solutions

Double Crossword

Across: 1 Look; 3 Traveller; 4 Mature; 5 Cryptic; 6 Allent; 7 Edge; 10 Apparition; 12 Assented; 15 Embrace; 16 Sphere; 18 Normal; 19 Ache; 21 Remain; 22 On a visit; 23 Phrase; 24 Get ready; 25 Silent; 26 On a visit; 27 Vice; 28 Get ready; 29 Stand aside; 30 Restless; 31 America; 32 Unkind; 33 Exact; 34 Unkind; 35 Exact; 36 Unkind; 37 Exact; 38 Unkind; 39 Exact; 40 Unkind; 41 Exact; 42 Unkind; 43 Exact; 44 Unkind; 45 Exact; 46 Unkind; 47 Exact; 48 Unkind; 49 Exact; 50 Unkind; 51 Exact; 52 Unkind; 53 Exact; 54 Unkind; 55 Exact; 56 Unkind; 57 Exact; 58 Unkind; 59 Exact; 60 Unkind; 61 Exact; 62 Unkind; 63 Exact; 64 Unkind; 65 Exact; 66 Unkind; 67 Exact; 68 Unkind; 69 Exact; 70 Unkind; 71 Exact; 72 Unkind; 73 Exact; 74 Unkind; 75 Exact; 76 Unkind; 77 Exact; 78 Unkind; 79 Exact; 80 Unkind; 81 Exact; 82 Unkind; 83 Exact; 84 Unkind; 85 Exact; 86 Unkind; 87 Exact; 88 Unkind; 89 Exact; 90 Unkind; 91 Exact; 92 Unkind; 93 Exact; 94 Unkind; 95 Exact; 96 Unkind; 97 Exact; 98 Unkind; 99 Exact; 100 Unkind; 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A Slovenian surprise

Slovenia may be small but it has much to recommend it, says Mike Pickup. Coastline, castles and the highest ski jump in the world...

Slovenia is one of Europe's youngest and smallest countries. It has three distinct climates. The south is Mediterranean, the centre is mid

European, the north is mountainous.

We leave our car at Gatwick with I Love Meet and Greet, fly to Venice, then follow the Mediterranean coastline across the border to the coastal resort of Portoroz, one of the few seaside resorts in a country with 29 miles of coastline. Further up the coast is Piran, an Italian-style medieval town with a wide town square and small harbour, overlooked by a hilltop cathedral.

After a typically Mediterranean lunch we head north to the capital,

Ljubljana, on the Ljubljanica River. Its banks are lined with lively restaurants and bars and it was voted European Green Capital 2016.

If you get tired of walking you can hitch a free ride on one of the electric buggies called Kavalirs. The city is dominated by a lofty medieval castle with great views of the city.

Our final destination is Bled. Our room at the Hotel Park overlooks a castle and picturesque lake containing Slovenia's only island. The four mile shoreline is easily managed by walkers and cyclists.

Next morning we head to the Vintgar Gorge and walk along the wooden pathway that clings to the rocks. Later we take the cable car to the top of the Vogel Ski Centre for a



CALM: River cruise in Ljubljana

bird's eye view. The Julian Alps form the backbone of Slovenia, and the huge Triglav National Park. A challenging roadway crosses the Alps with 49 hairpin bends. It's popular with motor-cyclists. The park has spectacular walking trails. Maps are readily available and no guest is refused lodging in the many cabins and lodges, even if it means making up a bed on the floor.

We also visit the ski jump centre which includes the world's highest jump. Standing at the top, we wonder why they do it. I took the chairlift!

HOW TO GET THERE...

Thomson Lakes & Mountains (www.thomsonlakes.co.uk, 020 8939 0740) offers a week's stay at the four-star Hotel Park in Bled from £593 per person (based on two sharing) including flights from Gatwick and transfers departing in July. Direct flights available from

all major UK airports. Thomson also offers the city of Salzburg as an add-on to a week's holiday. I Love Meet & Greet www.ilovemeetandgreet.co.uk, 01293 577988 offers valet parking at Gatwick, Heathrow and Stansted with prices from £78 a week.

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

EU debate has impact on us all

RICHARD Ablett [KoS, letters, last week] seems to think expressing an opinion on such an important issue as the EU referendum is the result of a desire on the part of individuals to air their prejudices, but of course political discourse involves putting forward one's beliefs, as long as one can provide logical grounds for doing so.

Those about whom he complains did make clear the reasons that they disagreed with a previous correspondent and, if we live in a democracy, have a perfect right to do so.

The points they made very much concern the future of Kent, and of the entire UK, and I suspect the reason Mr Ablett describes their letters as diatribes is that he disagrees with them. He is of course free to make the opposite case, rather than try to silence opponents.

Colin Bullen,
Tonbridge

Grammars are not the answer

COLIN Bullen [KoS letters, last week] once again peddles the emotional and entirely incorrect myths and falsehoods that prop up arguments for grammar schooling.

Why attack headteachers? What special knowledge has Mr Bullen and other grammar school supporters that escapes the professionals who work in the system and with the children day in day out for years? This seems like another one of those appeals for experts to be dismissed. We've had a few of them recently.

The idea there was ever a golden age of grammar schooling which lifted working classes up the social ladder is another hoary myth.

In the 1950s only 10 per cent of such children went to these institutions and some 40 per cent of them left without any qualifications at all.

We know that today grammar schools admit far fewer poor children than their comprehensive neighbours. So the brutal fact for grammar school apologists to swallow is that the schools they defend are ossifying social mobility.

They are the exact opposite of what we need to be doing.

And surely the fatal blow is that the countries near the top of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) tables, do not select.

"Oh, but there is selection by house price!" the defenders of selection cry. But that is an argument to ensure rigorously throughout the whole education system, not for more selection.

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Section 40 threatens to destroy local press

AS a former employee in both regional and national newspapers I have naturally (since retirement) taken an interest in the industry's developments and issues.

It has been very sad for me to see the decline of the press with a constant decline in circulations and profits. In particular I find it very sad to see the demise of our regional press. All newspapers are under threat with falling sales, partly due to the growth of news that is readily available on the internet and rising costs. These issues have had a really dramatic effect on our regional press with many closing even after many deciding to distribute for free.

The one thread of hope for our remaining regional newspapers is to be free to report local facts and unbiased news items without fear. However if I have read the "consultation on the Leveson enquiry" correctly this is under threat if section 40 of the crime and courts act 2013 is implemented.

The regional press must be able to

function with impartiality. But if it has the constant threat of court procedures coupled with all costs being passed onto it (even if it is proved the reporting was correct) it will simply close more of our regional newspapers.

The opening statement of the Leveson report states "a free press is an essential component of a fully functioning democracy".

This is a very true statement but this applies to all sections of our press. However the Leveson enquiry's conclusions seem to be based and developed with the national press operations in mind only. There is a vast difference in the national and regional press in terms of their functionality and essentially their financial clout. The implementation of section 40 will cause some issues for the national press but for our regional press it will simply not be able to take the burden of these extra costs and will close.

Derek Ashenden
Gravesend

embarrassment.

No one in the 21st century would promote a system that writes off 80 per cent of its youngsters with an arbitrary test at age 11. More than that though, the country post EU referendum vote – if PISA results are our guide – simply cannot afford to.

Ben Murphy,
Sittingbourne

Southeastern are not the worst

WHILST I agree with Dr Alan Bullion's letter [KoS, letters, last

week] he has not mentioned that Sevenoaks is served by two train operating companies, Southeastern and Thameslink.

Whilst Southeastern's service has been poor Thameslink's is a lot worse.

Currently I have 11 'delay repay' claims outstanding, one against Southeastern, 10 against Thameslink.

The major problems with Thameslink are that they do not have enough staff which results in many train cancellations and when trains are running late they deviate from the route they should be operating along to make up time for the return working heading north from Sevenoaks to London and beyond.

The majority of their services should call at all stations between Bromley South and Sevenoaks via Swanley.

However, when they are running late these train services are frequently diverted via Orpington running fast between Bromley South and Sevenoaks to recover time, (this happens in both directions).

This is obviously very annoying if you are wanting to travel on one of these diverted trains to/from one of the stations that has been bypassed.

I would like to see this practice prohibited and if trains are diverted for the train operating companies convenience for the rail regulator to levy a hefty fine.

Keith Alderman,
Sevenoaks

TfL will only mean engineering

UNLIKE Dr Bullion, I very much hope Transport for London doesn't get its hands on the local rail network.

Once TfL start getting involved in anything, large chunks of the network are closed every weekend for 'essential engineering works'.

Colin Evans,
Bromley

Dr Who? This is getting personal

THE convention in this country is that only medical doctors use the title 'doctor' – even though they are not, academically, entitled, to use it – in the sense that they are not PhDs.

Doctors of philosophy – PhDs – do not use the title, and Alan Bullion's use of it flies in the face of this convention.

Dr Alan Bullion is not a medical doctor and should sign himself Alan Bullion PhD – if he wishes.

John Ward Moorhouse,
Tunbridge Wells

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.

- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to

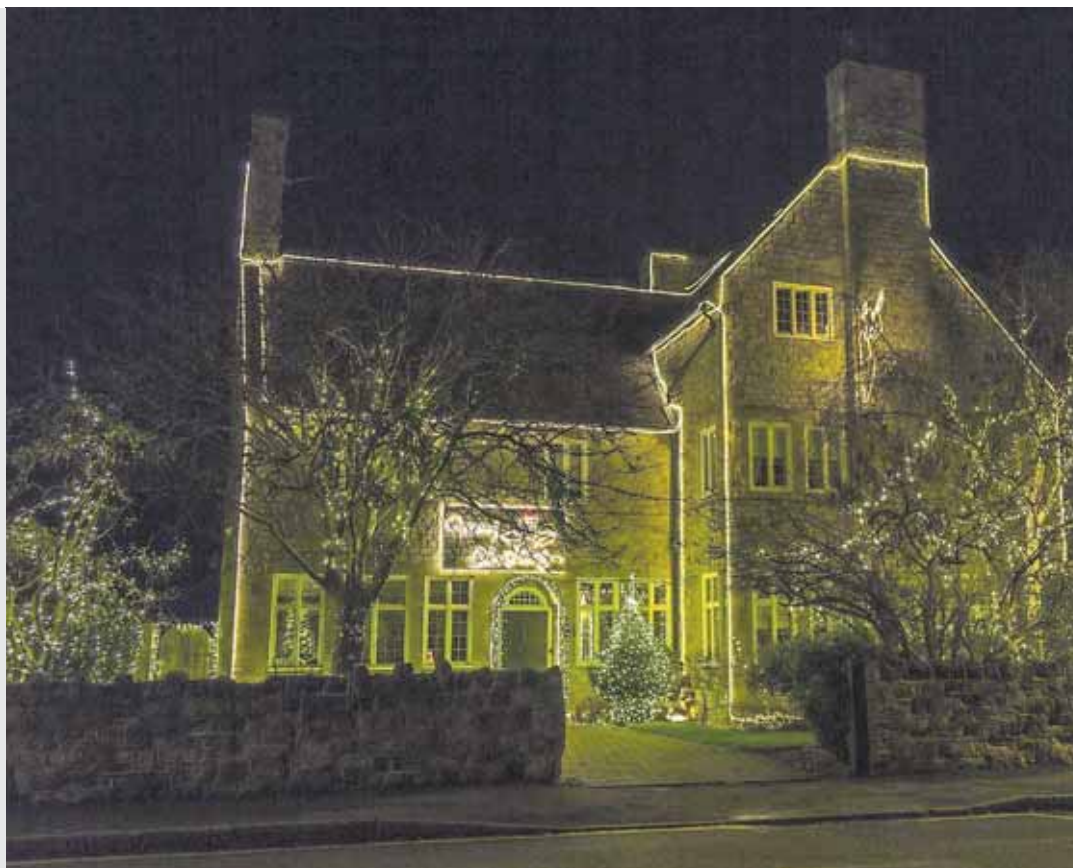
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people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.
kent-life.co.uk kentnews.co.uk



Festive house in Margate
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EVOLUTION: French marque's third generation C3 underlines its desire to be different



Citroën C3 stands out in a crowded marketplace

BEING different has never troubled Citroën, so its latest C3 supermini stands out from an increasingly samey crowd.

It also chimes with the French brand's new determination to be mainstream yet different, and reaffirms founder André Citroën's urge to create cars with comfort and distinction.

Citroën says the newcomer heeded customers' wishes too for safety, unique style, and connectivity.

The C3 has an in-vogue higher riding SUV/crossover look – despite a roofline 40mm lower than before – Citroën's now trademark stacking of running lights above headlights, and lavish customisation including a choice of three free roof colours.

It also wears Air Bump side inserts pioneered on the impressive C4 Cactus, which give the C3 even greater distinction.

Being priced from £10,995, it's no surprise that some C3 interior plastics are hard, but the design is sharp – note the leather-look door pulls – and the Flair flagship trim looks smart with its customised colour highlights.

The cabin is also light and airy, though the £400 full length panoramic roof is worth the extra outlay. All but entry level Touch models come with a seven-inch touchscreen, though you must access this for heating and ventilation – some-



times frustrating.

I applaud the standard fitment of a dashcam though: useful for accident reports and, with its manual shutter button you can take pictures on the go.

On the road, the soft suspension is great, but can be unsettled on poor surfaces and tends to make the C3 lean in classic Gallic-style on corners.

There are three three-cylinder petrol engine outputs – 67, 81 and 109bhp – and two diesel outputs (from £13,295): 74 and 99bhp.

The 109bhp petrol is the pick of the range with power for all situations; the 99bhp diesel is impressive too, if grumbly, but cannot justify the £1,000 premium over my petrol choice.



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| 13 13 Seat Mii SE 3 Door Hatchback, Black, Manual Petrol, 4,895 miles, A/C £4,500 | 15 15 Suzuki Swift SZ 3 3 Door Hatchback, Black, Manual, Petrol, 10,272 miles,
A/C £8,500 |
| 13 13 Ford Ka Edge 3 Door Hatchback, Flame Red, Manual, Petrol, 31,503 miles,
A/C £4,500 | 14 14 Fiat 500 Colour Therapy 3 Door Hatchback, Blue, Manual, Petrol, 10,791
miles, A/C £6,495 |
| 09 59 Ford Fiesta Zetec 16v 5 Door Hatchback, Red, Manual Petrol, 63,531 miles,
A/C £4,695 | 15 15 Renault Twingo Dynamique SCE SS 5 Door Hatchback, Red, Manual, Petrol,
7,463 miles, A/C £6,500 |
| 13 63 Ford Ka Edge 3 Door Hatchback, Crystal White, Manual, Petrol, 34,508 miles,
A/C £4,750 | 14 14 Vauxhall Adam Jam 3 Door Hatchback, White, Manual, Petrol, 20,369 miles,
A/C £6,500 |
| 10 10 Peugeot Partner Tepee Zenith Hdi/Mpv (Multi Purpose Vehicle), Aluminium/
Silver, Manual, Diesel, 75,000 miles, A/C..... £4,995 | 14 14 Seat Ibiza Toca 3 Door Hatchback, Grey, Manual, Petrol, 22,176 miles, A/C
..... £6,500 |
| 13 63 Ford Ka Studio Plus 3 Door Hatchback, Flame Red, Manual, Petrol, 16,375
miles, A/C £4,995 | 14 63 Nissan Note Acenta Premium Mpv (Multi Purpose Vehicle) Blue, Manual,
Petrol, 21,642 miles, Climate £6,750 |
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A/C £4,995 | 13 13 Vauxhall Insignia Tech Line Cdt 5 Door Hatchback, Carbon Black, Manual,
Diesel, 68,400 miles, Climate..... £7,250 |
| 13 63 Fiat Panda Easy 5 Door Hatchback, Mauve/Purple, Manual, Petrol, 21,996
miles, A/C £4,995 | 14 64 Ford Fiesta Zetec 3 Door Hatchback, Deep Impact Blue, Manual, Petrol, 8,055
miles, A/C £7,250 |
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37,000 miles, A/C £5,000 | 15 65 Vauxhall Corsa Limited Edition 3 Door Hatchback, White, Manual, Petrol,
11,198 miles, A/C £7,995 |
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| 14 14 Ford Ka Edge 3 Door Hatchback, Moonlight Silver, Manual, Petrol, 6,467 miles,
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| 13 13 Mini Clubman Cooper SD Estate British Racing Green, Manual, Diesel, 53,279 miles, Nav£9,500 | 09 09 Land Rover Range Rover Tdv6 Westminster Estate Grey, Auto, Diesel, 88,100 miles, Nav£18,000 |
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| 13 63 Mini Countryman Cooper D All4 5 Door Hatchback, Crystal Silver, Manual, Diesel, 36,067 miles, Climate.....£11,000 | |
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By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

WHILE 2016 will unquestionably be recognised as the most remarkable year in politics in a generation, there were also plenty of talking points in sport, too.

The summer brought us the first Olympic and Paralympic Games since the world's greatest athletes graced our soil four years ago, as well as the football European Championships, a Ryder Cup and much more.

Closer to home there were ups and downs for the county's football clubs, frustration for Kent in the cricket, more success for Shane 'Shakey' Byrne and plenty more in between.

The year began with some high profile transfers from the county's non-league outfits to Premier League giants.

Exciting teenager Shilow Tracey departed Ebbsfleet United for Tottenham Hotspur following a trial at White Hart Lane, while Ebou Adams made the switch from Dartford to Norwich City.

There was no repeat of a marquee FA Cup clash like there was last year when Crystal Palace visited Dover Athletic, with each of Kent's representatives knocked out of the competition by the previous December.

Welling United got further than anybody else but a horrendous National League campaign saw boss Loui Fazackerley sacked, and replaced by Dean Frost in January.

Kent's first business of the 2016 cricket campaign was to bring in Adam Rouse as understudy to wicketkeeper-batsman, Sam Billings, a role he would perform admirably throughout the season.

In snooker, Ditton's Barry Hawkins reached the Masters final for the first time, eventually falling to Ronnie O'Sullivan, who beat the potter comprehensively 10-1 at Alexandra Palace.

"I was playing the player rather than the balls, so hopefully next time I can focus less on Ronnie and just play my own game," he told us following his defeat.

A few months later, he'd do just that, defying the odds to beat his old foe in the World Championships at the Crucible.

With the bit between his teeth, suddenly the county dared to dream it had a player who could go all the way in Sheffield.

And Hawkins so nearly pulled off one of the most historic comebacks of all time in his quarter-final with Marco Fu in April.

Down 9-1 at one stage, he clawed the deficit back to 10-9 and had the chance to level the score, but missed a crucial opportunity and was eventually beaten 13-11.

In an earlier round, Kent's Gerard Greene caused an upset by beating the legendary Jimmy White at the Crucible.

In boxing, promising Folkestone super bantam-weight Josh Kennedy appeared to have an exciting start to the year, fighting on the undercard of David Haye's televised comeback.

Kennedy was victorious over El-



PART TWO:
Pick up next weekend's edition of KoS for the concluding part of our review of 2016

We take a look back at the best of sport in Kent...

2016 Review: Part One...

emir Rafael at the O2 Arena, though admitted he was disappointed there was no coverage of his bout on freeview channel, Dave, as previously understood.

"I'm really gutted they didn't show it and I want to apologise to all the fans I told to tune in," he told us afterwards.

Legendary promoter Kellie Maloney opened a boxing gym in Bromley, while a Kent rowing duo were victorious in the pairs class when competing in a race dubbed 'the toughest on earth.'

Dan Parsons, 30, and Olly Clark, 31, completed a gruelling 3,000 mile

crossing from the Canary Islands to Antigua as part of the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge in 42 days, 17 hours and 59 minutes (pictured).

Over the course of the six weeks, they battled storms, sharks and sunstroke, with improvisation involving a length of wire and duct tape pre-



venting their tiny 22ft boat from being torn apart by the harsh conditions.

February saw the arrival in the county of overseas stars, South African bowler Kagiso Rabada and New Zealand batsman Tom Latham, both of whom would go on to impress in Kent colours throughout 2016. In football, Jay Saunders signed a new deal with high-flying Maidstone United while KoS revealed plans for Crystal Palace to move to a new training ground in Kent. The Eagles have outgrown their current Beckenham base and chairman Steve Parish told us they were looking to fly into the county rather than inwards towards the capital.

"Land is in short supply in our part of the world and that's making life difficult because our academy needs the extra space," he said.

"If we were to train in Kent obviously we'd be a little bit out of the way, but we are the club with the 28th biggest turnover in the world, and we don't have the 28th best facilities so we need to move somewhere with more space."

March saw the ECB announce a controversial shake-up of the county championship, meaning only one team would be promoted from Kent's Division Two in order to reduce Division One to just eight teams...no prizes for guessing where Kent finished later in the year.

Elsewhere, John Webb became Margate chairman, and Palace's link with the county continued as they snapped up promising Gate striker Freddie Ladapo.

Kent's players rallied round their teammate, Billings, when he dropped a crucial catch in England's world T20 final in April and then began their county championship and T20 campaigns in impressive fashion.

Gillingham had spent a large part of the 15/16 season at the top of League One, and the performances of the talismanic Bradley Dack were recognised by his peers as he was named the division's player of the year.

"I owe a lot to my dad and mum - she's watching at home I think," the midfielder said.

However, the Gills crumbled at the business end of the season and defeat to Millwall on the final day meant Justin Edinburgh's side didn't even make the play-offs.

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